Prayers of Frank W. Gunsaulus

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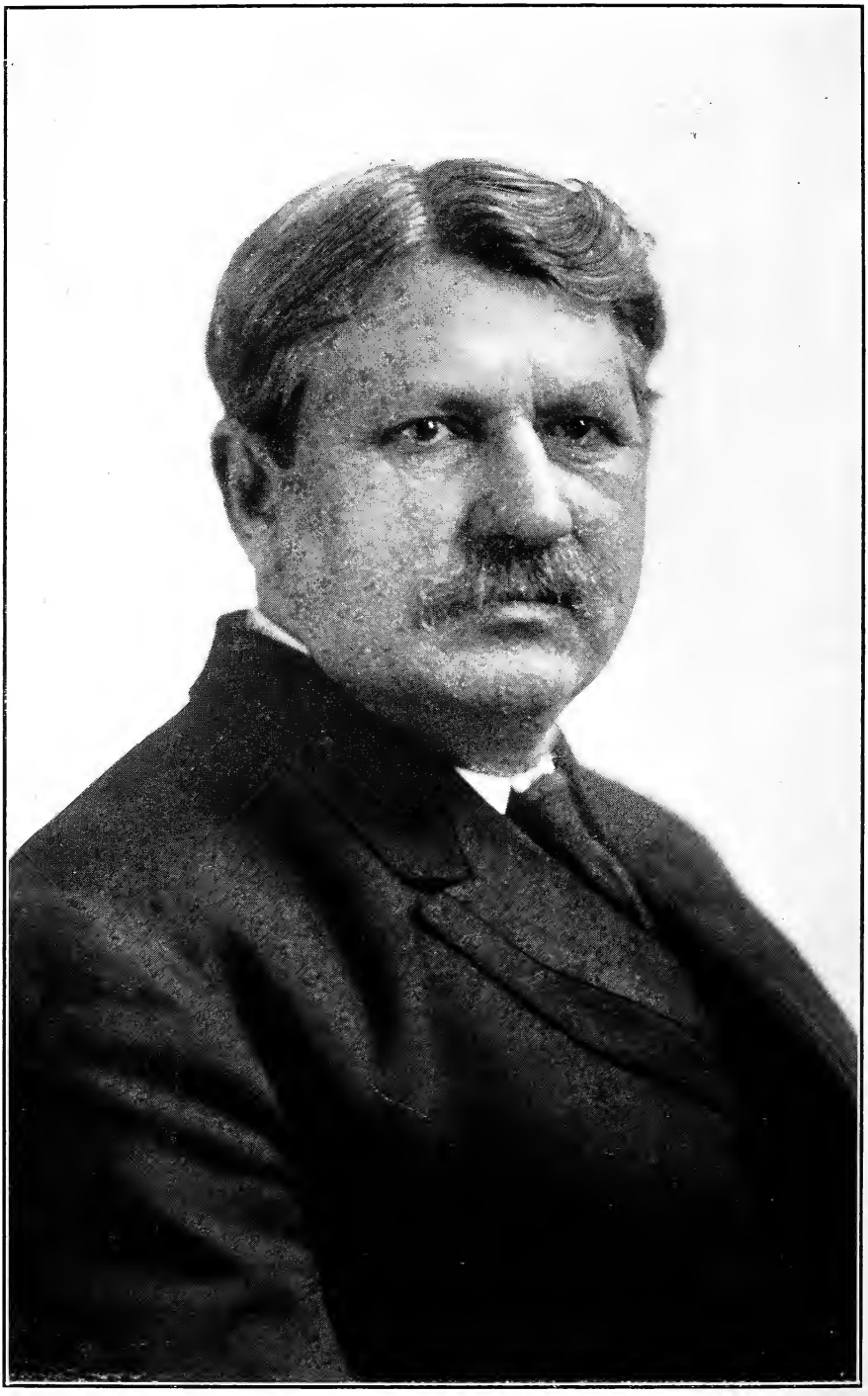

Prayers

of

Frank W. Gunsaulus

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By

Frank W. Gunsaulus, D.D.

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To the memory of my Father

FRANK WAKELY GUNSAULUS

who, a year ago this Easter-time, entered completely into the Life Eternal which he illumined for his fellow-men during all the years of his ministry.

"And this is life eternal, that they might know thee, the only true God and Jesus Christ whom thou hast sent."

Preface

THESE prayers uttered in Central Church, Chicago, between the years 1913–1918, are gathered together in the knowledge that having been helpful to those who for many years heard Dr. Gunsaulus on Sunday mornings, they will be even more precious now that his voice among us is stilled. They were taken verbatim, during the service, interwoven as they were with the hymns, anthems and sermon into what he always strove to make, a unified thought running throughout the order of service. He preached through his choir almost as much as through the spoken word, and in the case of the prayers used in the service it has been thought well to mention the line referred to of the hymn, song or anthem which preceded his prayer which so often was a continuance and completing of the thought expressed in the music. The titles and composers of the music are listed, in the order of their quotation, on a page at the end of this volume.

The prayers are grouped under four head-

ings: those offered at the opening of Service, those used during the Service, prayers in War-time, and prayers for Special Occasions, such as New Year, Easter and Christmas. This was done with the thought that they might be more easily referred to by those who would be comforted, strengthened, and inspired by them.

HELEN C. GUNSAULUS.

Chicago, March 17, 1922.

Contents

PRAYERS USED AT THE OPENING OF SERVICE 7

PRAYERS USED DURING SERVICE . . 49

PRAYERS IN TIME OF WAR . . . 85

PRAYERS OFFERED ON SPECIAL OCCASIONS . 119

LIST OF MUSICAL SELECTIONS REFERRED TO IN PRAYERS 159

A MORNING PRAYER

GUARD me for yet another day,
For life is new with morning's ray;
And foes are strange, untrod the way:
Guard me through this an unknown day.

Gird me for yet another day,
Though guarded I must fight and pray;
Teach me to draw my sword or stay:
O gird, while guarding me to-day.

Guide me for yet another day:
Guarded and girded, yet I stray.
Find paths for me and I obey:
Guard, gird and guide me, one more day.

Guard, gird and guide me every day,
So when all things of time decay,
In morn of heaven by grace, I may
Enter thy perfectness of day.

PRAYERS USED AT THE OPENING OF SERVICE

ALMIGHTY Father of us all, we thank Thee for these associations and rejoicings and psalms of praise, and for this place of prayer. We rejoice that we are all understood here by One whose eye never faileth, whose pity is everlasting, and whose sympathy is as large as all the universe dominated by the throne of our great Father, our God.

We are here this morning with so many needs, such intricate ways, such complex and serious problems that only the divine hand may touch our wound in safety; only the divine kindness that moves amidst many sicknesses with stillness; only a love that remembers our griefs and would not make them more agonizing; only the power to redeem that may save the lowliest;—only this we ask for, the presence of Thyself, O God, in Christ Jesus, our Lord. Amen.

OUR Father God, to whom we come as children this morning, unable to tell the story of our wants, our woes, our joys and satisfactions, our deepest happiness, our largest dreams, interpret Thou our hearts. We are, Heavenly Father, like an old page upon

which there was once written a story in one language and upon which there was written more lately another language, and we find these languages confounding and strange one to another. We read out of the past now and then and then we come a little nearer and read out of our experiences that lap over into the present. Lord, Thou canst read every language of every heart. We cannot interpret one another. We bewilder and mislead one another. Even love does not completely tell the story of any life to any other life. O, but Thou knowest and Thou lovest and at the very beginning of this worship, at this hour, we bring Thee strangely written manuscripts of life and time; we bring Thee hearts that do not know one another perfectly, knowing that Thou wilt tell us all things that we are to know, in the Name and by the power of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

OUR Father and our God, we are here from near and far. We have brought with us varied experiences through the Providence which has followed us through all the years. At length we are gathered together for the first time and for the last time. We are not ships that are passing in the night merely, hailing each other at passing, we are Thy children, members of the family of God;

we are at home with one another; we have sweet words we may say to one another by which we know we are of the household. There are blessed promises that belong to us all, that bind us together.

O Lord, Thy Spirit, the Spirit of Unity and of Truth and of Hospitality, the Spirit that shall make every one of us feel that we are come home in faith and love and joy, through Christ, and in His dear Name,—let this Spirit come to us all, through our Elder Brother—Christ Jesus. Amen.

O LORD, our God, we are ever with Thee, and in Thine own purpose we have always been. We come out of the Eternity with Thee, for Thou hast had us in mind evermore. We thank Thee that Thou dost command communion with Thine own children and that we are lifted into fellowship with Almighty God. We stop this morning to think about our fellowship. It is so great; it has such majesty of command upon us that we would pray for help while we think of it. To be in communion with the Author of our being; to touch the next task with an alliance with God; to know that whatever we do we cannot be away from Him.

O, solemnize our trivial lives; make sacred, we pray Thee, the passing moments. Fill our souls with the sense of nobility of our lives in

Thee. We ask in the Name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

ALMIGHTY Father, we rejoice in our childhood unto Thee, greater than all facts, mightier than all other impulses, sweeter than all other recollections is this: we belong to Thee. Much we have lost in life, much we have gained, but from the beginning and on and forever on, we are and shall be Thy children. Some of us have wandered, some of us have blundered—Yea, all of us have made mistakes and sinned. Thou art our Father yet; Thou art our God yet, Thou art greater than evil, greater than sin. So we come to Thee. Receive us, we pray Thee, in the Name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

OUR eternal Father, who dost never forget us, who, though we are living in time, dost remind us of the eternity from which we come and into which we shall go,—give our minds, we beseech Thee, this morning to that same recollection of whence we came or some anticipation of whither we shall go, so that our spirits shall be exalted above earth, and yet that we may be faithful to the things of earth and time and make this morning a morning in which we shall realize our sonship and daughterhood unto Thee, our Father. We pray this for Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.

O THOU great Silence and Speech, Thou who art from everlasting to everlasting, Thou whose glory it is to conceal a thing that Thou mayest reveal—we come to Thee with our noisy lives, our perplexing cares, our petty irritations, our weaknesses, our sins. We have very little to give to Thee save these, perhaps a good purpose, a right intention, a struggle. Thou canst take it all and make out of it infinitely, and Thou art present here to help us. May every one of us be praying for this help, and we ask in the Name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

O LORD God, we never stray from Thy presence except in our own thoughts, by our own action, into strange ways of our own invention and pride and thoughtlessness. When we are not with Thee, oftentimes, Thou art with us. Thou followest us; Thou dost stand round about us; Thou dost beset us before and behind, because Thou dost love us. When here in this presence we recognize the fact that we are together looking heavenward; how surely we find that we have forgotten Thee, and Thou hast not forgotten us. O, Thou unforgetting love, lead us this morning, nourish us this morning, bring us back home this morning. May this morning be like an everlasting morning that shall come, the dawn of light for joy and singing. We ask in the

Name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

O GOD, forever and ever our Lord, be the Lord of our thoughts and feelings and hopes, our joys, this morning, and our griefs always. Very many of us have come together here, O God, with nothing sufficiently interesting to hold us in times of sorrow and disappointment, in the storm. Wilt Thou interest us this morning in Thyself! Deliver us from ourselves by taking us into Thyself. We bring to Thee such a variety of experience of the human thought that the endeavoring to circumscribe it staggers and hesitates and fails. Thou shalt not fail with us. Thou shalt take us all in. Thou wilt take all of us; every side of us. We can leave it all to Thee. Give us this hour of peace and strength and progress, through our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

ALMIGHTY Father and Friend, we are here in Thy presence no more than we were in Thy presence a moment since, and yet in a sense, O God, because we are all Thy children and confess to one another our affection and our hope, we are in Thy presence as those that have come home to hear the voice of the

Father again and to confess our wanderings and receive Thy blessings. We are always in Thy presence, but especially, O Lord, we are here this morning to open our hearts for Thy blessing—so many of us so differing in need, at the one hearthstone of blessing. Father, bless Thy children through Thine own elder Son, our elder Brother, the Child of Thine own love, who has not gone wrong as we have gone wrong. Bless, we beseech Thee, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

ALMIGHTY God, who art our Father, in whose Name we have the expectation of grace because Thou hast said "For my Name's sake will I do this, will I redeem thee, will I comfort thee, will I save thee," hear us, we beseech Thee, as we come into Thy presence and not relying upon our own character but relying upon the character of our God, we try to find again the foundations of the real and true character and seeking these and finding them by Thy grace, in Jesus Christ, we try to rebuild with Thy help, in spite of all our miscalculations and above all, all our sins. O Lord, help us, help us at this time as we try in the midst of the wreckage to build something worthy of Thy goodness and worthy of our hope. We ask in the Name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

ALMIGHTY Father and Friend, command a blessing upon us, we beseech Thee this morning, and let Thy blessing be Thine own presence, for without Thee we may do nothing. We are here this morning because life is so important and heavy as a burden, and bright as a possibility glowing before us with its opportunities, then a tangled pathway, then a stream beset with rocks. Just because life is all these things and more than these things, we need our Father's hand and our Father's blessing and our Father's good leadership and guidance. We have come here, O Lord, to honor; we have come here with self-respect, with joy in our hearts; Thou wilt not disappoint us. Lead us, we beseech Thee, for Christ's dear sake. Amen.

O LORD God, the Father of our spirits, judge of all the earth, our eternal hope and reward, we are here this morning with a multitude of necessities that cry out beyond our prayerful words. We cannot give them the language of our hearts; these necessities are too deep, too strong. We bring them to Thee, and ask Thee, thou listening God, to hear where we cannot speak and to translate out of our lives the deep, strong yearnings that lie beneath all our failures,—the aspirations that climb up on the trellis of our faith toward the Son of Righteousness. We ask for this

hour of worship, aspiration, teaching, instruction in righteousness, according to Thy Holy Spirit. This we ask in the Name and for the sake of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

OUR Father God, because we are Thy children, we are here, homeward bound, looking homeward because the feeling has been stirred within us in this first moment of worship that we belong to Thee and that Thou dost belong to us. We shall always be aweary and alien until we are in Thine own heart of hearts, reconciled by the love Thou hast given to the world in our Elder Brother. Father, we thank Thee for this hour. Let us open all the doors of gratitude that the good angels of Thy mercy and guidance may come in. We will give Thee all the glory of this blessing through endless ages as we respond in our prayer unto Thee. Amen.

O LORD God, our Eternal Friend, how stable and supreme is the thought that wherever, however we may have wandered, the Rock of Ages stands amid all the flood of things, bathed in the sunshine of love, cleft for each of us, a harbor and a haven. And we are here this morning, O God, not to tell Thee in words, but to pray just now together that every heart may be open, that the Divine Love

may find each one's message to Thee. Perhaps we may not have prayed in any way save with the unconscious desire for a long time. Teach us, Master, how to pray. We know how to work; we know how to achieve; we know how to fail; we know how to succeed; we know many things that we may do and that we are doing—but every one of them is being done so poorly because we do not know how to pray. If we have forgotten the old prayers, teach us again to say them from our hearts and out of our experience of sorrow and sin and pain and woe. But hast Thou no new prayers for us from this new day when the Autumn ripeness comes upon the grape, when yonder in the orchard Nature itself finds the prayers of the Springtime in all the beauty of this September day? Dear God, teach us how to pray in the name of the Master, Jesus Christ. Amen.

O THOU that art of eternity, we whose concerns of time are often so heavy and yet so dear that we may not bear them, we come to Thee and rejoice that the shoulders of the Almighty are under all our cares and tasks and problems which we call our burdens, and that these burdens are so transferred into treasures that they come back to us in imagination and hope of the Christian life as the blessings of the Almighty whose Name is Love.

We give Thee glory, we give Thee thanksgiving, we give Thee praise. We bring to Thee this morning, each one of us, out of the Garden of Life, some special blossom of our gratitude, and we ask this morning, O Lord, that Thou shouldst water the Garden of the Lord and fill all the spaces with the sunshine of Thy peace and graciousness so that we may be eternally grateful unto Thee for all that has been and all that is and all that shall be, in Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

OUR Heavenly Father, how precious is the place of prayer. How delightful these associations that seem to be of earth but are of heaven. Though our citizenship is in heaven, we are living in the atmosphere of the eternal and the infinite. We come again this morning and strike our hands gladly in this friendship, but we know that the unseen and everlasting Companion is at our side, and we realize the presence of the Holy Spirit. We thank Thee, we adore Thee, we pray Thee for Thy blessing this morning in a special manner upon every one of us and all that we represent, in the Name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

ALMIGHTY God, our Father and Friend, we are here again and some of us for the first time and we are here because Thou art

our Father. We draw aside from all Thou hast said to us in nature, from what Thou hast spoken to us in all the music in the fields and flowers and streams, to come into personal relationship with Thee. We are like children who wish more than Thy grace: we wish Thyself. We are like ones in a household where we would have the hand and the smile and the forgiveness, more than anything Thou canst give us. Give us these things to-day. We ask in the Name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

OUR Heavenly Father, why should we lift our praise unto Thee this morning when we cannot add a single ray of glory to the throne nor pour into the great chord of the universe any joy? We ask ourselves this question as we come into the very presence of the Omnipotence and Omniscience ruling the universe. Then there steals over us the sweet and encouraging thought that Thou desirest communion. Thou hast come all the way to us, through our Lord, Thou hast come, by way of the Holy Spirit, Thou hast come, so many, many times Thou hast come to us in familiar ways; by providences Thou hast come; through sorrows and joys Thou hast come. Thou art so rich and yet Thou wouldst have Thy children around Thy throne in communion, as a Father would have his children. We thank

Thee for the fellowship of this service. May it be ours through all our lifetime. We ask through our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

O LORD, we take into our prayer this morning all conditions, all achievements, all frustrations of hope, all blighted buds that shall never fully bloom, all the grief and all the tears, that we may take into the little cup which we offer to Thee; and we recognize that on the outside there are millions untouched by our comprehension. Thou knowest all; Thou knowest everybody's need. We commend unto Thee the child Humanity, the blundering, faithless, mistaken, rising, hoping, believing child Humanity—in the Name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

COME, Holy Spirit, come and indite our petitions with love and faith and hope. May we know that Some One else is helping us to pray, for we know so little. Our horizons are small and fade in the mist. Let this hour be an hour of prayer. All the way through this service may we be looking unto Thee, O God, and wilt Thou teach us how to pray. We ask in the Name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

WE do praise Thee, Thou Almighty Love. We cannot compass Thee this morning with the lines of light that fall upon us from Thy throne. We cannot even tell Thy Name to our hearts. We have called Thee Wisdom, we have called Thee Love, we have called Thee Truth; every age and every people have brought a name for Thee, but O, Thou Secret of our Being, Thou that art nearer to us than breathing, Thou that art indeed our All and in all, we bring Thee experiences of these days of separation and of this morning of reunion to Thee. We cast them all before Thy throne. We do praise Thee. Every blessing has come from Thee. Nothing but good in all the pathways shall come. And we offer to Thee now and here ourselves, Thine own, for all the destinies of the future, in Jesus Christ. Amen.

O LORD God, who art the portion of our inheritance, who art our Best, our Truest, our Holiest in our life and in our vision, we thank Thee that we are permitted to come into the presence of Thy majesty and lo! as we come and as we try mentally to bring ourselves up to the occasion, to measure and to count, we find that Thy glories are all gathered into one: Love, Love everywhere, Love always, Love that was and Love that is and Love that is to be—God over all, blessed, for-

ever. Accept, we pray Thee, this morning, the acclaim of grateful hearts, accept also the weariness, accept the bewilderedness, the ignorance and the mistakes—all we bring to Thee, for no one else in the universe will accept many of these things. Our friends will not accept them; our enemies refuse. Thou wilt accept them all. O great Artist, Thou wilt take the hardest stone and make the most beautiful thing out of it, because of its strength in Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

O GOD, our God, God of all our life and of all our hope, our first thought this morning is praise, and out of our praise there comes our prayer, haltingly enough, but sincerely, the prayer for light, the prayer for all the warmth that comes with the light. We thank Thee, O God, for the Light that is the light of men, for Him around whom we come, all our differences, with all our varied experiences united in one thing: that we do love Him and only Him—even Christ. O Lord, Thou knowest altogether what we would tell Thee if we could, and because Thou knowest and art all sympathetic and all powerful, we give this service into Thine own hands with our lives, our hearts, our hopes, in the Name of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

O LORD, we bring to Thee this many-sided and perplexing occasion, where so many lives are gathered, where the streams of life flow forward, and we pray this morning that this audience may be lifted by the Divine Spirit upon such a mount of privilege that we may see the fair fields below and know that the harvest time has its appeal to our heart, so that we may sow the seed as in the springtime. We shall prepare the ground. So may we enter Thy spirit by the preparation of the soil of our hearts. May the seed be sown in the Name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

ALMIGHTY God, we are in Thine own hands wherever we are, but especially do we feel the tender pressure of goodness as we come together to worship Thee, to see one another in the light of the great redemption. We thank Thee for the meanings of this hour, for the revelations of this moment as they come and go. We are more to one another because we are so much to Thee and Thou art so much to us. Seal these blessed friendships, unite our hearts in one constant theme and anthem of praise and prayer. May this morning be a morning indeed that shall invite into itself all the joys and hopes of Thy kingdom. We ask in the Name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

O LORD we thank Thee that this dear church, like a mother, has coming unto her the children of want and despair and sin, the aching and weary ones, the perplexed and misguided ones, and for them we lift up the voice of prayer this morning. We pray Thee to rescue and help, we beseech Thee to save and to heal; above all, we pray Thee to forgive sins and take away by holiness and Thy love every shred of iniquity from us and them, in the Name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

OUR Heavenly Father, who art our God and our King, what other thought may bring us together with unanimity this morning save the thought of Thee?

Across our sorrows and over our joys, in the glade, on the upland, on the heights and in the depths, there Thou art for all of us and for each of us, and whether we look to-day through our tears or through our smiles; whether we are under the rod, passing through deep affliction, or on the lofty places in the joy of Time, there Thou art.

Thou art to lead us through our joy to greater joy; through our sorrows to deeper consolations. Thou alone must preside over us this morning. Bring in every wandering thought; tether to Thy throne all of our vagrant and errant inspiration. First of all, O

God, in order that they may be bound to Thy throne, tether us to Thy cross, O Christ Jesus! Amen.

ALMIGHTY God, our Father, who art holy, who lookest upon us, we come to Thee because Thou art holy and not because we are holy, but because we would be holy. Pity us, we beseech Thee, with the influence of Thy salvation. O God, restore unto us the joy of Thine own holiness. We thank Thee that there is a place in time called Calvary where Thou art holy, where Thou dost not permit sin to live and where Thou dost forgive sinners. Father, we thank Thee that we may come to that place as we do now and ask the forgiveness of our sins through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

O LORD, our God, it may be that Thou comest and art asking us always out of Thy mercy and Thy love to be ready. We thank Thee that Thou comest at the close of the day of Life, as Thou hast come to us in the morning. We thank Thee that Thou comest at all seasons of life, robing Thyself in the gold of autumn and in the emerald of spring and in the white purity of winter and in all the raptures and loveliness of summer-time.

May we be ready for Thee—ready for Thee not because we are in cringing fear, but because we are in hearty love, and we ask this in the Name of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

ALMIGHTY Father, we thank Thee for the privilege of praise. We thank Thee for the religion which has taken unto herself the garments of song. We pray Thee that our voices may be none the less tuneful because of the rich experience that shall be ours this morning in hearing the Gospel and from hearing on high some accents that may not be heard upon the earth, because we aspire, by and by, to sing around Thy throne.

We are here in a world of discords, but we desire to dominate them by the concord in Christ Jesus, our Lord. We know no other way than by coming up here and reading the score which Thou hast given us. We pray Thee give us far-sightedness and clear-sightedness, and give our hearts willingness to sing in the choir of the great Humanity. May we be unselfish, may we give ourselves utterly to the Leader of this great song organizing out of all the years.

We ask for the sake of the sweetest and the dearest of the leaders of the great Orchestra, even our Master, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

IT is our confession, our Heavenly Father, and it is our joy to remember that while we are praising Thee here below there is an anthem above, and when we think of what is above us and those who have been dear to us who have passed on, we join with the heavenly host and say, "Praise God from whom all blessings flow."

How they have been flowing for these many years into all our lives! How many times we have mistaken the meaning of these blessings; how often we have not called them blessings at all—but "Praise God from whom all blessings flow" that the blessings still are flowing; that it has made no difference with our Heavenly Father's bounty that we have counted it a little thing. O, forgive us, gracious God, that we have ever underestimated; that we have missed in appreciation the divine Gift. And give us one more gift this morning: Thy perpetual blessings, and especially as we worship here bring our lives into the great Repair Shop of Thy love as we bring our foolishness and our sin and our needs, along with the better things.

O, give us Thyself, the presence of Thyself, and all will be well, in Jesus' Name. Amen.

O GOD, our hearts continue this "Amen." We would be close to Thee. Services like these coming into our lives with all their consciousness endearing us to these Sabbath

mornings and to this place serve to make us know how far we are from God. What has happened in between God, our Father, and us? We would be close unto Thee. We feel that the mistake is very, very tragic, and that it has led to disaster from pitfall to pitfall. We have not been close unto Thee.

Bring us back this morning through Him who revealeth unto us the heart of God, even Jesus Christ. Amen.

ALMIGHTY Father, in whose Treasure House are things new and things old, we come to Thee this morning in all the poverty of our spirit, needing new valuations for life, requiring that Thou shouldst do Thine own part with the resources of Eternity as we find the problems of time, realizing that Thou art omnipotent and omniscient and our loving God. And O, with what faith we come! Some of us with prayers upon our lips that shall not find words even there, but we come to Thee who knowest all and we ask that we may worship in Thy presence and receive Thy blessing this morning in the Name of Jesus, and by the faith of Jesus and through our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

O THOU Father of us all, who knowest us all and altogether, we appeal to Thee because Thou dost know us so well, and with

such divine sympathy and pity and power to forgive and help. If we were to come here together and look into one another's faces alone, and feel nothing and know nothing but one another, we should come away dismayed and disappointed because we may not help one another, we may not save one another. None of us may save himself, none of us may save another, but Thou, Saviour of mankind, Thou upon whom the burden of our salvation hath rested from the first, Thou canst and wilt. We come this morning to look to Thee, to look away from ourselves, and to look away from one another, to look to Thee, that when we look back to one another we may see ourselves with gratitude to Thee. May this be the morning's experience to us all. We pray in the Name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

ALMIGHTY Love, who art our God, God of the universe yesterday, to-day, and forever, how much we need Thee and how Thou dost yearn in Thy love. Bless us. O, Everlasting Mercy, be merciful; O, Eternal Goodness, lead us by Thy kindness, lead us by the still waters and in green pastures; O, Thou mighty and just One, let Thy justice be tempered with mercy and this morning lead us all and every one by the hand—that Hand which has guided all the destinies of the universe from the beginning, the Hand that was scarred

on Calvary—through our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

OUR Father God, we come again and again and yet again because our wants are so numerous and we may not meet them ourselves but especially because Thou art good and loving and Thou hast invited us. All the earth is an invitation this morning and the skies invite us, and the seas far away invite us. The universe which Thou hast made is the symbol of our want and the divine supply and everywhere we feel as our thought comes out and ranges about through creation that our God is waiting for us, waiting to be gracious. May we live in the grace of God this morning. For this luminous and happy hour we thank Thee. For all Thy blessings we adore Thee, but especially for the gift of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

O LORD, who hast endowed the ministry of our Lord, Jesus Christ, with a faith that reaches forward through all ages, we beseech Thee to give unto Thy servants that guardianship, that guidance, and that girding, by which through all the days, they may walk in strength and in valor through the Captain of our Salvation, our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

O LORD, our God, whose eye seeth every precious thing, what is there this morning except what Thou seest that in any way might justify our coming together, for we are all weakness, we are all incompetent to handle the affairs of the life we are trying to live alone, we are all weary—some of us only a little tired and others of us very worn—and we are all unable to meet even the exactions of our own ideals, still less to come up to the commands of an All-holy God.

But the holiness of our Father is the holiness of love, and we are not frightened. We fear with the fear of love. We fear to disappoint God's plans; we fear to break the heart that was broken on Calvary once and long ago.

And now, Lord, let love cast out fear. Let us realize this morning that we are in the presence of an omnipotent love, and it is not ours to ask questions as to how Thou shalt bring order out of confusion and light out of darkness. We put ourselves into the molding hands of our Father. We ask this in the Name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

O THOU Heavenly Father to whom we come at all times with our ignorance and our faultiness and our iniquity, have we nothing to bring Thee this morning but these, the tatters of decay, the remnants of failure? Yea, Lord God, we have given to Thee our sin-

cere praise, our hearty worship, our open hearts, our needy lives. Thou wilt not disappoint us, and we wait for Thy blessing in the Name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

O LORD, our God, who hath made us in Thine own image, we thank Thee for the privileges which come from our creation after Thine own image. We can think because Thou hast thought, thou great Thinker of the Universe. We find Thy thoughts as children find threads, and out of all our ignorance we find our way by following with our thoughts Thy thoughts. Mighty Gift and Mighty Giver!

O Lord, we thank Thee that we are made for love. Thou art eternal Love. We adore Thee that we are made to respond to majestic willings, purposes and to intentions that are divine. We bring our little wheeled vehicle, like a child, along to where one of these great purposes moves, and we hitch onto the divine. Great Gift and Mighty Giver, help us to love and to praise and to follow Thee, through our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

O LORD, we are here to-day strangers to one another. Thou knowest us all together. We are here with many cares sending their rootlets down deep into sorrows and pains and betimes finding springs of joys.

We are here with such a variety of experiences, and necessities numerous as they are that we make our appeal to the infinite God and pray Thee that this may be a place of blessing and forgiveness to all who come, and may the grace of the Lord go with us wherever we go; may we carry the light of joy of this communion and fellowship with us. We ask in the Name of our Lord and Saviour, Christ Jesus. Amen.

O THOU God of all pardon, of all comfort, Thou who dost repair the waste places, Thou who dost come to us as the dew in all the tenderness of Thy love when we have been wounded by the scythe, Thou who descendest as rain upon mown grass, Thou who speakest in the cloud, in the thunder and lightning, speak to us as Thou wilt, but speak to us, dear Lord, this morning in the Name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

O LORD, our Father, when we come into Thy presence for worship and thought and love, we know that we are exposing ourselves to the Light and that the judgments shall be judgments of light. We know that we are exposing ourselves to Love, and there are no such judgments as the judgments of love; we know we are exposing ourselves to Thy pity, to the sympathy of God in heaven. May

we this morning be willing thus to open our hearts and to be open.

If there are repulsions in us against the evil which may have clung to us as we came here, may we rejoice that the antagonism proves life; that we are not quite dead. O Lord, our God, if there are disturbing ideals that feed us with the pain of their progress within us, may we know that this is the travail of God in our soul. If we feel this morning that we never may be happy again and live the old life, may we grasp the new life through our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ! Amen.

WE are gathered here, O God, to worship Thee, to talk with Thee, to hear Thy voice in the silence, in the reverence, in the open-heartedness of our needy lives. "Almighty God unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid, cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of Thy Holy Spirit that we may perfectly love Thee and worthily magnify Thy holy Name, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen."

ALMIGHTY God, whose friendship is our token of Thine everlasting care, we are here this morning not because of any worthiness; we have not come up to the opportunities of life in any such victorious way as

to command a favor of heaven. We are here because Thou dost love us; Thou hast given us some symbol of great possibilities in the patience and the care with which Thou hast guided us, and we are here because Thou hast never been away from us. Enfold us, we pray Thee, in this precious thought and let our service this morning be a service of emancipation from tumult. May we find the sweet silence of the Almighty in our lives and in our hearts. This we ask through our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

ALMIGHTY Father, Thy children gather here thanking Thee for the altars of Jehovah. Aforetime we have come and we have never been disappointed. Thou comest to us with much mercy this morning. Benedictions are about us. Our pathway is strewn with Thy mercies. We are here because of Thy love, Thy providences, and a particular grace that makes us what we are and where we are. Stop with us, gentle, mighty Spirit; stop with us in these moments, and may we find out something of the purpose which has brought us hither, something of the task we are to carry on, something of the sweetness of the flowers to which we have been blind, something of the loveliness of the message that Thou wouldst teach us in our pain, something of the deeper joy within our joy. May we not leave this

hour without being better prepared for the hours that lie beyond as we are on our way through the eternal in Thee. We ask in the Name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

O LORD, our God, so often has this place been to us a mountain peak for communion, so often from this height here have we seen things that have shone in upon our poor lives, making them rich and beautiful; so often has this place been an altar, or the old altar has come back here which we had forgotten! Here we have met our sacrifices; here we have met the Spirit of the Living God and the altar fires have burned to heaven! So often has this been a place of mercy that we have called it the "Mercy Seat"; so often has it been a precious place of remembrance for us; so often has it been a crossing of the Jordan; so, also, has it been a place of the Transfiguration of the Lord Jesus; so often has it been to us the lonely place of Calvary; so often has it been Olivet and we have seen His own humanity and ours lifted up into the heavens, —that we bring all our needs here this morning and know that Thou wilt answer them.

Take us to these places in the spiritual life: some to Calvary, some to Olivet, some to Nebo, some to Sinai—all of us by way of the Cross, in Christ's Name. Amen.

O SPIRIT of the highest, thou Spirit of Nature and of history of man in his sicknesses and sorrows and disappointments, of man in his hope and his rewards and achievements, thou Spirit of the universe enfolding all our little life in the large life of Thyself; our God, declared and made manifest unto us in our Brother, Jesus Christ, we are here because Thou hast invited us through our own nature. The bell we have heard bringing us to worship, Thou Thyself hast sounded in our own soul. We are here for blessing. We are here that we may go into hands competent to touch us. We cannot remake ourselves; we cannot do as we would with ourselves. O, Divine Artist, come! Be with us. Thou canst take us. This material with which we have failed is Thine, Thine, Thine, now. Thine forever! Amen.

O LORD, as we are summoned here by what is in us of inspiration, of hope, by what Thou hast for us upon the table of the Lord, we pray Thee that we may be fed, that to each one there may come this morning that special blessing that shall come in a new inspiration of life, in a new and sweeter relationship to all the children of man, and above all through the forgiveness of our sins, so that we come into Thy presence on the morrow with a new and holier motive for life. Even

to-day in the midst of the struggle of mankind may we find ourselves standing upon the side of sacrifice, ready for all things. In the Name of Christ, we ask it. Amen.

ALMIGHTY Love, Thou art our theme to-day, and it shall be our theme forever, and we rejoice, O Thou God of Love, that hast manifested Thyself through Jesus Christ, our Lord, whom we love, who hast loved us not for our sins but hast loved us out of the unfathomable heart of the infinite, and who in spite of all our sorrows and pains and fallings and failings still doth love us. Hear us, we pray Thee as we bring to Thee to-day the partial notes of the song we would like to sing; hear us as within the circle of the great hope that by and by somewhere and sometime all shall be perfect and complete, we offer Thee now our incompleteness, to the hands of the infinite artistry of life our imperfections, to the all-perfect One, in the Name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

ALMIGHTY God, our Father, we are here this morning through a long series of providences making our path for us, and by a long series of the operations of Thy grace wooing us hither. Other lives are concerned in our coming here to-day. Long ages have

prepared this path of worship and aspiration. We are here after many costs of service have been paid; we are here in the name of a faith which has fought many battles and has many battles still to fight, but a faith that is already flushed with victory. We bring our lives and our fortunes; we bring all that has come to us by inheritance; we bring so little until Thou hast touched it: then we know we have brought so much as to make us sincere, open-minded, and personally true. Touch the hard hearts with Thy goodness until we are tender; open our wills to the incoming of the purposes of the Divine Will. O Lord, we cannot tell Thee all—Thou knowest all—*all!* Thou hast watched us from the beginning. Give us a little start this morning, we pray Thee, by Thy grace and love! Amen.

O GOD, our Father, how sweet it is to meet together here in Thy Name. Here, we are understood; here, our deepest sorrow is fathomed; here, our darkest doubt has a bottom; here, our greatest joy is taken in with the joy of the highest. Whatever we have of value is more valuable here when we put it into Thine own hand. We bring our lives this morning—all our experiences—and hand them over to Thee. Lord, help us to hand them over in gracious happiness. Let us be glad that there is some great, dear hand that can

take them. Let us be thankful that Thou art patient with us as we try to get loose from many of the things we can give to no one else but Thee. Even let us, Lord, give Thee beside, our troubles, our sins, our shortcomings, and our failures: we can do nothing with them. Thou canst pardon all our sins. Help us with all our difficulties. We give Thee the glory, through Jesus Christ. Amen.

"WHERE two or three are gathered together in my name, there shall I be in the midst of them." Dear Lord, these words come back to us over many ages, and we know that we are here in a building not consecrated at first to Thy service, but consecrated by Thy presence now and by Thy presence always to the worship of Almighty God. Wherever Thy children are, there is the temple of the Holy Spirit, and we pray Thee this morning that in this place we may feel what has come to the children of men in the desert, on the mountainside, along by the flowing stream, in the dungeons where St. Peter wrote his epistles and along the mighty heights climbed by the feet that were weary, for wherever men are looking Godward, there Thou art. Here let us realize that the whole universe is Thy temple, in the Name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

OUR Father God, we are in Thy presence in an especial way this morning, touching one another's lives, looking to the same God, but from such different points of view. Thou knowest all of us and everything about us and in us, and we are thankful that this is so, for Thou art all-merciful and all-kind. So this morning we come to Thee with the united song which we have offered as our praise to Thee, but we bring to Thee in this hour of prayer our open lives, the things we do not suspect, the things that Thou alone knowest about. Make this hour an hour of great, tender searching, of healing, of helping, in the Name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

O GOD, our Father, into what an atmosphere of home and hospitality and divine love we are come. We were fearful when we came that our mistakes would keep us from entering Thy doorway, but Thou dost welcome us because Thou art our Father, and because we are overwhelmed and sad-hearted at our mistakes. We were afraid that our sins, deeper and more redly stained than our mistakes, might keep us from Thee, but Thou dost say as we come, "Come unto me, and I will wash away your sins and I will make thy soul whiter than snow." We were not afraid that our sorrows would keep us from Thee, for the

most sorrowful of men was Thy Son and is Thy Son yet stretched upon His cross, our Redeemer. We are here because Thou art our Father, because we are Thy children. Let none of us be lost, let none of us fail to feel the warm light and flame of Thy love. None of us is so weakened, none of us so far astray, but that Thou dost come with Thy redemption for us, and Thou dost search upon the mountain and amidst all the stones and briers for the lost sheep. Let this morning be a morning of return, therefore, in the name and for the Name's sake of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

O LORD, we redeem our promise: we will "call upon our Lord and our God and complain unto him," for we may not bring the things of our hearts and lives to any one else with such complaints as may be heard and understood. Thou knowest all of all of us, and all of all we love and all of all we would help. We bring the sorrow and tragedy of life unto One who understands from the beginning and along through the joy for which we thank Thee and the ministry of this sorrow and this pain. We bring to Thee in the making, characters for which Thou hast done so much at the beginning and all the way along through our lives, for which we thank Thee,—asking Thee to mold, to repair, to set straight, to bur-

nish, to glorify for Thy throne, in the Name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

O LORD, we are Thine, Thine even yet, whatever have been our mistakes or sins, still we are Thine. We are prodigal sons, but sons, wandering daughters of Israel, but still Thine, Thy children. We come back into the hands that shaped us at the first in these hours of worship. We are indeed like clay in the hands of the Potter, but not hopeless clay, for the Potter is hopeful. We are Thine. Thou art our God. O in this fellowship this morning, may there be a renewal of life, a readjustment of all that needs draining out and refashioning, but may this work be done by Him who holds the seven stars in His hand, even our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

PRAYERS USED DURING SERVICE

"Be my tent and in Thy covert, keep me from the tempest's war."

O LORD, we are praying with these songs most effectively, for these songs give expression to that which no words may speak or divine: our upward longings, our sense of shortcomings, and the value of the spiritual powers that are the regnant powers of the universe.

We thank Thee as we sing for a singing religion. We rejoice as we praise Thee for a religion that means the extinction of evil. The shadow shall flee away, and that immortal substance of good which is God Himself revealing Himself in all life, shall abide forever.

O, let us this morning hide in the covert! Let us find the warmth and kindliness and welcome under the shadow of that wing! May we recognize the fact that Thou dost not and will not see it as permanently belonging to us. Let us leave it behind, pressing on through our Lord, Jesus Christ, through every kind of goodness and power.

We ask it in the Name of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

"In Thee, have I trusted. Let me never be confounded."

O LORD, God of Order, of Light, we pray Thee hear our prayer that we may be delivered from confusion; that we may indeed never be confounded, and hear that prayer, we beseech Thee, in spite of our recognition that nothing but our wrong-doing permanently confuses us. Hear our prayer, especially, Heavenly Father, because even if we are confounded and lie in direst confusion because we have done wrong, Thou art not confused.

Thine eye seeth through all our gloom. Thy hand hath reached through all the confusion. Thine own voice stilleth the tempest. Thou hast given us Jesus Christ, that we may be calm, self-controlled, loyal and pure, in His Name we ask for Thy blessing, and guidance. Amen.

"And triumph over death, and thee, O Time."

O LORD God, Father of Eternity to whom Time is as a wave of the ocean, and our times as but drops in the Sea Everlasting, dispose our minds, we pray Thee, to the high emprise as such thoughts as these and as we look this morning upon any who may be returning home with a sad history and a glad future or upon any who may have failed. Living at Thine

own house and at Thine own table, in the heavenliness of the Father's Home and for what it stands, may we be children not of Time but of Eternity. May we learn not to postpone for some blessed thought of the future our triumph over Time. May we this morning learn to triumph over death by living; over chance by taking the divine order as the rule of our life, and over time by asking no questions of to-day or to-morrow or a year or an age, but asking only to be whispered to from the bosom of Eternity. "How shall the thing strike you and me in the house not made with hands?" May we take the modern psalmist's word and say it at every crossroads of life: "How shall the thing strike you and me in the house not made with hands?"

O God, we are moving on with joy; we are coming nearer constantly to the larger, sweeter views of Thy presence. We beseech Thee now, this morning, to enfold us in the warmth and comfort and safety of Thy love. We ask this blessing through our elder Brother, our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

"Mighty Ruler, Mighty Lover, Mighty Saviour."

LORD God of our salvation who givest us this mighty Saviour and this mighty Ruler because He is the mighty Lover of our hearts and of our lives and all our fortunes, we

come with our gratitude this morning and ask Thee to bless us by such a touch from Thine own hand who gave Him that we may give our lives unstintedly, freely, with all joy and satisfaction to the mighty cause of this Ruler, this Lover and this Saviour. We know, O Father, when our lips use these great words of song, when into us there pour these new visions wrought by these melodies, how unworthy we are. Grant us Thy guidance, we pray Thee. Amen.

"God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have Everlasting Life."

ALMIGHTY Love, we thank Thee for this song and its story. What a world it is to live in, if the greatest sorrow that we have, the darkest doubt, the most severe affliction, the heaviest burden may all be brought to Calvary! We may know what pain means, what the accomplishment of the divine desire shall mean in the glory that is to come. If we are in such a world, all within the bosom of Thine own love, all within the gracious circumference of Thine own pity, all within the warmth of Thine own eternal springtime and hope, *how shall we live?* What heroisms we may have within us, unborn, shall suddenly spring into life, and what latent manhood and

womanhood are there, shall breathe forth songs for everybody. Lord, may we live in this atmosphere! Forgive us that we have been in any other atmosphere; "for God so loved the world." There is something more than the troubles we have brought here this morning; something more than the thing that dogs us from place to place and follows us; there is something more than the fact of our personal failure.

O God, Thou *art,* and Thou hast so loved the world that we accept it all and give up doing alone and working alone and bearing alone, and we accept Thine offered partnership in our life, through Jesus Christ. Amen.

"These are they that came out of great tribulation."

WE are thankful to Thee, Almighty God, that the story of infinite love is a story of such conquest and such victory. We open the Old Book with its strange traditions and we read of the curse and the thorns that came after the Garden of Eden, but we thank Thee that love comes along and by its almighty transformations reveals in the crown of thorns a crown of goodness and mercy and pity and eternal hope, and we rejoice that so great is love, so transforming in all things, that there shall be no more curse and instead of thorns

there shall come up the fir tree and all peace and joy shall come by and by in the conquest of that Love which wore the crown of thorns.

We ask Thee this morning, Heavenly Father, by Thy good Spirit, to bring our spirits close to this Truth. May we not war against the cost of human progress; may we, as we study together, seek to join the army of the Lord God, and by and by we shall hear the song: "These are they that came up through great tribulations and have washed their robes and have made them white in the blood of the Lamb."

We are here to lift our prayer to Thee for those who are dear to us, for those who are sick and needy, and especially we ask Thee, O Lord, to bless those in this congregation who have lost dear ones from their side; we pray to Thee to help us all who are in the first intimations of grief and who realize that we are without mother or father or husband or child or lover. But the great Lover is all these. Jesus, Thou Little Child, come and take the place, not to the exclusion of our little one, but in order that we may see the immortal little one in Thine own arms, as Thou didst say, "Suffer little children to come unto me." O, Thou Great Lover, wilt Thou stand by the side of the stricken and lonely love and by Thy mercy and grace succor and comfort them that are upon these hard and rough waves as once through

Jesus Christ Thou didst make the waves be still.

We ask all these things in the Name of Christ, our Lord and our Redeemer. Amen.

"Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God, Almighty."

THOU all-holy One, if it were not for Thy love expressed in Christ Jesus our Lord, we would be afraid and would cringe and falter and go away from Thine altar. If it were not that upon Thine altars is a sacrifice made not by ourselves to propitiate Thee, but by Thine own self to win us, surely there would be no worshipful heart. Each would go away afraid and forever away. But because Thou art holy Thou hast been true to Thine own nature and for Thy Name's sake Thou hast redeemed us. Thou hast offered the sacrifice not to propitiate, but to woo and win us; to show us what sin costs all the time and to bring us back by a way that shall make us forsake our sins and sinfulness and make us love Thee, Thou Holy One. And it is said that the Gift Thou didst make upon the altar is the Holy One. So in the atmosphere of this mighty song which has filled the generations with new impulses for music, we cry unto Thee, "Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty, who wast and art and is to come." We adore Thy holiness in the love and mercy and brotherliness of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

"In the shadow of the cloud, so chill and dim, we are clinging, loving, trusting."

IN the shadow of the cloud, O God, our Father, we find some of our friends this morning, and we bring to Thee a prayer for them. We ask Thee to bless the young ones who have looked out into life with such happiness and joy, as they look into a little grave. We ask Thee to bless them who are in the thick of the battle of life, who, for the first time, are fatherless and who have learned to fight under a shield loved by the family who have looked into the eyes of the Father for so many years.

O Lord, we ask Thee to bless this morning those who have the disappointments that Thou knowest by name and that we do not know save in the haggard face, the tired body, and the broken spirit. We ask Thee this morning to bless those who are in the sorrow of genuine repentance because of evil deeds.

We ask Thee for these blessings, because Thou art the God of all, and we have the promise this morning that Thou dost comfort us in all our affliction. We hear the word: "He knoweth our frame. He remembereth that we are dust." We give to them, O God, all the sympathy of brother-men, with all the love of motherhood and wifehood and girlhood, with the ten thousand experiences that one of us may comprehend, but that Thou st altogether, and we ask Thy blessing

upon these and all who are in trouble, as we think of our comfort this morning. In the Name of Him who is the Comforter—even Jesus Christ. Amen.

TEXT: *"Babylon was a golden cup in the hand of the Lord."*

OUR Heavenly Father, after reading Thine own Word and after coming into relationship with this fact as in the more modern days men continue their life under Thy providence and by Thy grace, we pause to thank Thee that Thou hast such power—the power of all goodness and the power of all truth, but above all the power of love, Thine own nature, to bring out in all the ore, with its stubbornness, with its sharpness and its coldness and hardness, the pure gold. We thank Thee that we have nothing to come with, oftentimes, but a cup of gold which is not golden, but we rejoice that many of us in the darkest experiences of to-day may find something somewhere, something that is gold, but something that has in its history nothing but the frightful association of wrong—a very Babylon.

O Lord, before we go away this morning, or at any other time, may we inquire of Thine own power, and before we yield may this be our prayer: that we may come into such a fai[illegible] as to know that the goodness of God shall[illegible]

pass 'round about us. So shall we come nearer to Him who took the poor, broken world to Him; took a world which had indeed been full of golden possibilities, a world which He did not cast away, but He redeemed a world of hope.

We ask in the Name of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

"And triumph over death, and thee, O Time."

O THOU God of Eternity, how sublime is the religion of Thy Son. What marvelous facts are these that come to us so finite, too weak to bear their weight, and yet Thou art within us, helping us to bear the superior weight and importance of these majestic ideas. We thank Thee for the triumphant soul; we thank Thee for the experience of being able in time to so have the relish and taste of eternity, to so have given ourselves to that which is immortal that we do here and now betimes triumph over time. We thank Thee for the brave and the true, for the good and the beautiful, for the holy and the wise who scorn time's judgment, who will not permit the dictation of a day or an hour's opinion, but who appeal in their lives to eternity and ask the judgment of the everlasting and so triumph over time. We thank Thee for the affection, we thank Thee for the inspiration, we thank

Thee for the instruction that comes out of eternity and, enfolded as our earth is to-day in all the soft, sweet brilliance of this morning, we move on in the eternal. By and by dates shall cease. O, help us, Heavenly Father, to be so acquainted with the eternal, to have so accustomed ourselves to breathe in the eternal that when death comes and life opens and all is over with time, we shall live accustomed to the eternal. So let us take to ourselves at the beginning of our prayer and faith, Him who is the Life Eternal of all—our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

"I shall tent on Love's Highway."

HEAVENLY Father, as we consider such a consolation, we wonder at Thy glory, we adore Thy power, we bow in reverence before a love so tender and so victorious! As we see the Highway of Holiness, we know it is the King's Highway, and we bring our unsubjected lives this morning—the poorest that Thou mayest make it the richest; the richest that Thou mayest make it the humblest; the fairest that Thou mayest make it the most serviceable; the most musical that Thou mayest put it, if Thou wilt, in the place of discords and tumult to make the world musical, and for this we give Thee our thanks in the Name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

"He sendeth the springs into the valleys, that run among the hills."

O LORD, we thank Thee that nature is the cup which Thou dost fill and that the cup overfloweth, Thou immanent God, and Thou transcendent God, Thou who fillest nature until she blossoms with beauty and fragrance, Thou who fillest the universe until the stars glow and quiver with light, Thou who dost speak to us in the morning wind and in the evening dew, Thou who art greater than anything Thou hast done, Thou who art in nature and through nature and more than nature, in whom nature is, Thou great Spirit who fillest nature with Thyself, we come to Thee in our thought. We climb up from this song through the frost and vapor, through the springs that Thou placest in the valleys for songfulness to Thee. Here we know Thee, central, supreme God over all, blessed forever. We would know Thee through our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

"I only know I cannot drift beyond Thy love and care."

O THOU who guidest every one of us, Thou who knowest every one of us and in what little shallop or sea-going craft of greatness we are, we give Thee all our thanks that we cannot drift beyond Thy love and care. We thank Thee for the perpetual-

ness of Thy mercy, for the sweetness of the belief which is perennial from the blossoms of Thy love. Great God, make its appeal to us this morning so that we shall rally all the forces within ourselves, so that deep shall cry unto deep, water shall cry unto sky, deep answering unto deep—God and man in one sweet and holy confederation of forces; the partnership of divine and human which we know in our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

"I'm a pilgrim, and I'm a stranger, I can tarry, I can tarry but a night."

WE are grateful for the pilgrimage of life. O God, we thank Thee for the inspiration that gushed like springs in freshness of water. We thank Thee for all that lies before us and makes our movement sublime if we are heavenward going. We thank Thee for all that we take with us of the history of the past, for consecration of human experience in the forward movement. Lord, we pray Thee this morning that we may so set our faces toward that Otherwhere of achievement, of success, of blessing and of sanctity that whatever may have been our lives in the past, there shall be a complete transformation of all that may have happened—our sorrows, our sins, our joys and our mistakes into the power that shall make us sing as we go on our pilgrimage. We ask this

in the Name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

"Fierce was the wild billow."

O THOU Christ who art with us in the boat, we thank Thee for the storm itself, knowing that Thou art with us. We thank Thee that there are such forces in our world, such meanings in life, such straining of the mast, such perils of the waves, because we are on our way somewhere, because life has such distinct and great meanings for time and eternity. May we worship in trust of God our Father, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

"Blest be the tie that binds."

O LORD, while we come hither this morning together and thank Thee for Thy mercies and rejoice in this place of prayer and praise, we remember those that are not here, we remember all the sacred ties that have bound us here and are binding us to Thee wherever we go or when we stay. May there be one song that shall reach from earth to heaven: "Blessed be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love and when we asunder part it gives us inward pain"—Lord, may we have that hope that we shall meet again and may we know that we cannot wander far from

one another while we kneel at the altar, that friendships never break, that the sweetest and holiest things of earth are to be taken up into the heaven. We shall begin in the morning time of heaven in the perpetual joy of our religion. We pray in the Name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

EACH one of us personally brings to Thee nothing less than the problem of himself, and, O Lord, if we had not the grace of God stimulating us, strengthening us, guiding us, restraining us, we would not have been here praying for Thy love. We thank Thee for this grace of God. We pray for the pardon of our sins, for the purification of the Holy Spirit; we pray for all those, O Lord, to whom our hearts go in our sympathy and who have asked for an interest in our prayers, in the Name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

O LORD, we would not hide from ourselves and we may not hide from Thee the fact that we have sinned, that we have come short of Thy glory, that we have failed miserably in our own strength, but we know that God is Lord over all; that sin is the shadow; that the substance is the Son of Righteousness. We do not believe, O Lord,

that there is any even battle between what we call sin and what we call goodness. We know that the battle has been fought and the victory won—won for us on Calvary. May we this morning, O Heavenly Father, rejoice that we are invited into the fellowship of His suffering, that we may be indeed His brethren and sisters. We ask in the Name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

OUR Father in heaven and on earth, Father of our spirits who shall be with us everywhere and at all times, may this Amen which has gone up from our souls be the answer of our whole life to the claim of divine holiness. "Holy, Holy, Holy art Thou!" "Lord God!" And Thou dost come unto us in Jesus Christ, our Lord, saying unto us, "Wilt thou be made whole," and we bring to Thee our partialness, our fragmentariness, our brokenness, for we are not whole and we would be made whole. We would be made ready for the City Four-square by being made whole, all our faculties in harmony. But what shall attract these powers out of the relationship, build up these walls that are down, and make us four-square and whole but Thy holiness? So, Lord, we appeal to the holiness that else would smite and burn and destroy, to save, soothe and succor in the Name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

O THOU Who art enthroned in the heaven of heavens, Who art and shall be ever more the Friend and Companion of trusting hearts, Who dost come to live with Thy children, Who dost make a dwelling place in the soul of man, Thou Who hast developed in man the sense so reverential of worship, O may our Psalms be Psalms of worship, and to this end may Thou take away all sense of discord by giving us again the Lost Chord, and by giving us who have never found it the chord of Thy Being, harmony with Thyself. May we be lovers, as Thou hast loved us; may we walk in the path of Him who taught us always to walk in the path of things by which we give ourselves to friends. May we live in times of disorder, ordered by the Lord. We ask in the Name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

O THOU God who bringest us together, who hast remembered us of old, who prepared for us the salvation which is in our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, may we have but one thought this morning as we look into our lives, and that is that without Thee we can do nothing. May we bring this morning even the disasters and mistakes of all our lives to Thee. May we go back up to Sinai if when we have come down from the heights of conscience we have failed. O Thou repairing

God, we bring to Thee the broken wheels of our chariots of fire. O Thou Healing God, we bring to Thee the wounds that we have made upon our own character. O Thou Saving God, we bring to Thee our losses that perchance are the best things we have, if we bring them to Thee in faith. We bring them to Thee in faith because Thou hast spoken to us with such sympathy and pity, through our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

O THOU unhasting God, Thou who knowest the poise of omnipotence, Thou who hast the calm of perfect knowledge, Thou who lovest us, we pray Thee not for the rest of dissolving ideals, not for the rest of fading principles, not for the rest of the grave of our ambitions and our hopes, but for the rest of that full life, that complete service, that utter loyalty that is to be ours, through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

WE beseech Thee this morning, Heavenly Father, as Thou lovest us, to pardon our sins, to cleanse us from all iniquities, to support our faith in receiving Thee, knowing that where Thou art there shall be no evil. O God, may we not undertake alone with false definitions of life to fight and combat our in-

iquities, but may we just receive them and so use the reserves of the Almighty and the resources of grace that we shall conquer in the Name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

ALMIGHTY Father, what stretches for imagination, what lands for faith, what oceanic distance for all our hope forever and ever. How the human heart ever invented the word, the response to it all, "Amen"—so let it be, without Thy grace, and without Thy providence and love, we cannot conceive. We are here in the midst of the mystery that such ideas have ever occurred to the human soul. We can understand how the kind of man getting out of all its transgressions emerging from the gloom of the past, slowly coming into the light of self-consciousness, should approach the understanding of the appeal of goodness and the desirableness of all that is true and lovely and holy, that by and by there should come a song, "Worthy is the Lamb that is slain to receive blessing and honor and power."

But, O God, our Father, where did we ever get the idea of "forever and ever"? Thou didst give it to us. Thou hast given to us the most solemn of Amens, so let it be, so shall it be, in the person of our Lord, Jesus Christ, for everything, O Lord, that Thou hast given unto us in Him Thou hast given unto us to say to

our own hearts, "The best shall be so." So we come this morning, O Lord, in His Name and by His strength. Amen.

O THOU God of Holiness, Thou who art perfect, Thou whose dazzling pureness puts a vast, deep shadow upon the ground where we walk because of our impurity, cleanse our hearts, we beseech Thee, and take, we pray Thee, into Thine own great and tender keeping the concerns of our characters. O Lord, we would have the things about us to please. We lift up our eyes often to the temples of beauty and rejoice, but this morning and in this presence, dragging here, as we do, after us the memory of guilt and wrong-doing, we ask for Thy cleansing power and we pray for the forgiveness of our sins in the Name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

ALMIGHTY One whose name is love, these words which have come to us out of Thine own holy Word remind us that we must not misinterpret love. O, Father in heaven, grant that our shadows may not fall upon the dearest thing we have in earth, that we may not project out of ourselves some meanness to bemean the noble. To this end, O Lord, wilt Thou reveal Thyself through the power of Thy love and the generosity of the

Gift which Thou hast made to us through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

O GOD, it is to the generous hand, to this most generous heart of the universe, to this generous power to redeem us that we bring the memory of our sins and our shortcomings and our failures. To Thee alone we confess them and to Thee alone, O God, we bring all the consequences which have followed in their train. Forgive us our sins, we beseech Thee; pardon all our iniquities; give us, we pray Thee, a new song; set us forth on new errands of joy, of faith, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

O THOU most generous God, who seeth us in our afflictions and knowest our grief, we beseech Thee to take every bruised heart and heal it, to take every lame one and put him in the way of strength, to give sight to the blind and hopes to the hearts of men. We pray in the Name of our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

O GOD, who knowest what every day is, and who fillest with all the concerns of eternity the hours of each of our days, Thou who especially art near to the trembling heart to-day wishing to know the issues of to-day, half dreading the conclusion of to-day, take all

our days, we pray Thee,—a poor gift indeed from us—until, like cups that thirst for the dew-fall, they are filled; and fill our days, we beseech Thee, with the gift of Thy grace from above. We ask in the Name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

OUR Eternal Friend, whose fields are everywhere, stretching throughout all eternity, whose joys are the joys and field flowers and field scents, take us this morning, we pray Thee, into the larger places of the day. We would stray away this morning under Thy guidance, and while we stray we have our hand in Thine, looking for mercies, finding the richnesses of Thy grace, going from pool to pool where Thou dost give living water, and finding in hillside and glen and everywhere the presence of our God. Soothe those that are fevered with care. Bless those who feel they are unworthy to follow Thee; give the word of comfort, we beseech Thee, to those who are distraught and weary with the weight of sin, and may we be guided in our thoughts and purposes, as always, for the sake of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

O GOD, as we come into the presence of these infinite truths and infinite promises and infinite realities, and especially as we stand

in the presence of our Saviour, Jesus Christ, with His almighty forgiveness, we are stricken at the heart with the recollection of our sins. We have wearied Thee. Nay, Lord, only love is unwearied—Thy love with the multitude of our blunders, the errancies of our feet and the willfulness of our hearts. O, God Almighty, we pray Thee to grant us the good Spirit from above, that we may always walk in the way of our Master, our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

ALMIGHTY God, we have praised Thee in our song; we have brought to Thee these tones out of our hearts, and we rejoice again and again and forever more shall rejoice in the songs of our faith. We thank Thee for the irrepressible music of redemption. We rejoice not in any speech or in any building; not in anything of color or of line, but only in the song that shall last forever and shall be resumed in heaven. May the great things of life be told. We thank Thee for the songs of the wedding; we thank Thee for the song of the birth, for the songs of baptism, for the songs at the grave's edge—but we thank Thee most for the songs in the night. Thou hast given Thy servants songs in the night, and so to-day, with all our experience of night-time, whether we are at vespers or at matins, we are come with

songs. Receive them, we pray Thee, our Father, in the Name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

WE thank Thee, O Lord, that every mountain height and every plain becomes a place of new privilege and if we are thankful for the things that are past may we be more arduous about the things that are to be. May we, if we have risen to a point where we give these songs this morning, go still farther by Thy grace, and may we to this end leave every unnecessary burden behind and so carry only what Thy providence dost give us to carry. And by Thine own spirit, O Lord, wilt Thou so influence us that we will cast our burden on the Lord, even though we know that every one shall bear his own burden and that we are commanded to bear one another's burden. Father, we pray Thee in these times of great concern that we may not be seeking to bear the burdens that Thou must bear. Lord, let us know that this thing of civilization was from the beginning a divine adventure; that Thou hast invested in it and that Thou hast never withdrawn the capital of heaven. O Lord, may we not try to bear burdens that are Thine and Thine only and may we so take up the burdens of simple duty and the thing that is nearest to us that it shall be more easy for others to bear their burdens. We ask in the

Name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

OUR Father God who givest us these topmost notes of life because Thou dost fill us with the music greater than that of the morning stars, grant that our lives be made so accordant with Thine own Spirit, with the unknown Thou hast for us and in us that we may always walk in Thy will and counsels to the end. We ask in the Name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

O LORD, we pray Thee especially for Thy blessing upon us in the midst of all our life that we may learn to be patient with one another and learn to love one another deeply for Thy sake. Forgive us, we beseech Thee, O Lord, for hastiness, for irritableness, for forgetfulness one of another, and may we so approach Thy mercy seat at this time that we shall know we have been taken into the beloved through our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

OUR Father, God, who art our shield and our sword, we praise Thee this morning for a multitude of mercies that no man may number. We thank Thee for the deliverances

of which we know and we thank Thee for the countless deliverances which Thou hast wrought out for us of which we do not know. We thank Thee for the moments of pain and sorrow and temptation out of which we have been mercifully brought. We see only this side of the gateway and we rejoice, but, O God, we thank Thee for those moments that for us were moments of emancipation, moments of mercy, moments of great goodness for us, moments that make us shiver at their significance as we think how often Thou hast blessed us. Receive, gracious Father, our praise this morning in the Name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

OUR Father, we are ever conscious, in the presence of these emotions brought up by this music for Thy praise, that we are out of harmony; that we are out of tune; that some of the strings have been broken; that, alas! our fingers wander ignorantly and clumsily over the strings that are left. O God, Thou art our musician; Thou art the only One in earth and heaven keeping the tune for the tuneless, and so full of goodness and truth as to be willing to repair our instruments. Wilt Thou give us this repair?—the right movement, the right tune, the perfect obedience—through our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

ALMIGHTY Goodness who art God and only God and God alone, whom we must worship ultimately if we attach ourselves to that which is immortal and omnipotent, we thank Thee that Thou hast made the flesh, that Thou didst dwell among us that we may walk with Thee, that goodness is the same in heaven and in earth and on the edges of the pit, that any soul clambering up anywhere for simple goodness shall find it in the relationship of man to man; that Thou hast set upon this earth a great enterprise of unifying a broken and discordant universe and that we are to find Thee in one another. O Lord, we thank Thee for this truth in the midst of flood and fire, and we give the loyalty of our hearts, through our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

OUR Father God, Thou knowest us all and altogether. We know only a few of us and perhaps we know the least about ourselves. Thou knowest us to the very depth and we are grateful also that Thou knowest us to the very height. Thou knowest us all through and we are not afraid. We feel that the sweetest, holiest reflection of the mind is that there is One who knowest all, who shall know all, He who knowest all, everlasting, unfailing Love. Take us into Thy bounty and feed us, we pray Thee; take us into Thy comfort and console us; take us into Thy mercy

and relieve us; take us into Thy pardon and cleanse us.

O Father, this is our prayer at the first, and shall be all the way through this morning, that the resurrection power of our Master may renew our lives in Christ Jesus, our Lord. Amen.

ALMIGHTY God, our Father, we bring Thee our thanks this morning for this hour of worship, for this hour of song and praise, and hope. We are not here because of any goodness of our own, but because of that series of providences and those expressions of Thy grace which have surrounded us all the way. We are stopping here just a little time, each one on his path, to look upward and join hands in faithful prayer unto Thee, that Thou shalt bless us each one according to the need, in our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. How it unites us, O Lord, to think that the One Great and Mighty Power of Love knows us altogether; how some of us on the way to the grave of a friend, father or mother or child or sister or brother, wait here for Thy blessing this morning. Bless him, we beseech Thee, as he journeys hence, and we pray Thee to bless those who look out in the midst of the conflict or in the early moments of the fray or in the close of the great battle itself, and those of us who have still to watch and fight—we pray, O

God, that the Captain of our salvation may be near us, shielding us in every temptation and yet enforcing in us the power of righteousness in the spirit. We pray through our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

O THOU God of all beauty who dost speak to the earth this morning with such love in the sunlight, who hast spoken to the earth in the rain, who shall speak again and again in whispers and in thunders, who art our God, may we recognize that the God of nature and the God of revelation, the God of all the stars and our little world and the God of the interior life is One, Eternal, Infinite, All-wise, the Love Divine, the Love Unfailing, and that as our earth journeys along this morning in the summer-time, wrapped in all the sweet prophecies of June, so may our world journey on in silence of faith wrapped about with the mysterious laws of Thy being held in the palm of the Great Hand, and may we open our hearts to whatever Thou hast for us of sunlight or rain. So may we come to the harvest time at last with joy, in Christ Jesus. Amen.

O FATHER, look into our hearts, we beseech Thee, and forgive us; forgive us of any intemperance of language or of action. Forgive us, we pray Thee, in the midst

of all the sweetness of Thy life, for any sourness of spirit or acuteness of speech. Forgive us for selfishness in the midst of all the needs of humanity. May our hearts throb and throb deeply, richly, beneficently, toward those who need. May we know brotherhood and sisterhood of humanity in all kindness. May we so follow Him who is our Light and Life that the world shall believe that Thou art again in the world. O, Lord Jesus, come again into Thy world through Thine own, and manifest Thyself, O God, in the humanity which comes through our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

ALMIGHTY God whom we do praise on high because the highest hast come to us through the highest, even our Lord, to us and to the highest within us, making appeal to that which is loftiest, so that we cry out in prayer and sing rejoicing this morning, "Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty," we bring to Thee from all the lower experiences of our lives the prayers expressed and unexpressed of our very souls, knowing that Thou on high hast proven to us the highness and loftiness of Thy divine nature by reaching down to us. Now the weakest of us comes and the weariest and the saddest, the most mistaken, and the most sinful, crying—the lowliest and the highest,—"O God of Jesus Christ forgive us our sins in the

Name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen."

WE bring to Thee, O God, our repentances. In the midst of all this that is harmonious how discordant is much of our life; in the midst of all this that is rhythmic how much that is unrhythmic in our poor existence. We bring much of our poverty to Thee because in the great upper places are fountains that shalt send their great current of life upon our arid deserts. Wherever the River of Thy Grace cometh there everything liveth.

Help us to acknowledge our wrongs; help us this morning courageously to name to our own hearts in the silence of this prayer what we repent of. O for the great forgiveness; O for the great love; O for the power to start again; O for the divine energy that we shall find nowhere else save in our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

ALMIGHTY God, our Father and the Father of our Lord, Jesus Christ, bringing unto us through Him a sense of our family relationships unto Thee, we thank Thee that all the relationships of earth are but symbolic. They are indeed but the beautiful language which we may speak in time and with finite utterance of that which abides beyond time.

We adore Thee, O Lord, that as a mother comforteth so Thou dost comfort. We thank Thee for the largeness of Thine own nature, so that as an eagle gathereth together her young in the nest, beareth them on her wing, fluttereth above them, carrying them out into the new and unknown, so Thou dost lead Thy children by the motherhood of God, in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

O LORD, we pray Thee for our personal purity and for the relief of the chains of iniquity that are bound to any of us. Why should we go along pulling after us great weights of memory and self-reproach? Why should we carry the chains of anything that shall fetter us and keep us from that loftier life? O Thou Breaker of Chains, we pray Thee to cancel all these foreboding and dark fetters. Thou dost take away from us the love of our sins. We pray Thee above everything to-day that we may be made worthy of these forces of growth that are come into the world with springtime, that it may be springtime in the way we shall leave the past, just as the flower leaves the past and dies at once to become a fertilizer for the future. So let all our mistakes be left behind in Thy grace and for Thy grace, in our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

ALMIGHTY Father, we rejoice in this estimate which Thou hast put upon what else were hopeless because so weak and inefficient the world of men and women and children. We thank Thee that if we wish to find out in any moment of darkness what the world is worth we only need to go in the presence of the broken body and the shed blood of the Christ of Calvary to find out Thine own estimate of the world's worth. We rejoice that the world's worth is not in the world itself, but in the hands of the Great Artist who takes the world and in the palms of love and forgiveness remolds the world and makes it all His own. We give Thee our thanks, through our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

O LORD God, we are always with Thee and Thou art always with us, but we are with Thee because Thou art with us, following us even in our wanderings, our Rear-guard as well as Advance-guard, a God besetting us behind as well as before, a God who will not let a single enemy be in the camp of Thy goodness that shall foil the goodness and the heart and the love of the great heart of Jehovah. And while we look out on life, Heavenly Father, we realize that the problems of life are so much deeper than the problems of death that we would ask, in this moment in the pres-

ence of all that we love and hope for, for the continuance of this personal guidance.

O Lord, may we be more conscious of Thy presence, may we not always be blind and dull to see Thee in the things of earth, may we not always be dull of hearing, so that we may not understand that the footfalls about us are the footfalls of our Father! Shall we always be so dull in the response to the touch that we may not know the hand that is upon us, guiding us tenderly, molding our lives; may we not more consciously know Thee and follow Thee. So we ask that through Jesus Christ our Lord Thou mayest be revealed to us in the masteries which He has over our lives, in the way He shall take the things which are drooping and failing, which are fast vanishing from us, and recover them by the power of His life, in the way He shall visit the very graves of our life and make them to respond by a power of resurrection, and in the way He shall take all our sins and bear them for us, as He has borne them on the cruel cross. This is a great blessing. It is the blessing we need, a consciousness that we need. We are in need of Thee, every moment—come Thou, now, unto each one we pray Thee—our Father. Amen.

ALMIGHTY God, our Heavenly Father, we thank Thee for the fellowship of enduring ideas and for the commandment of im-

mortal ideals, but we thank Thee especially that we behold these ideas in the flesh and blood; in the history of human greatness and nobleness and faith; that it is ours to walk side by side with these that were mere abstractions were they not our own in those we love and in Him whom we adore. O God, as we seek to find and attain them, how illusive are the best of ideas; how we follow them in the darkness and in the light, and how they are ever so far beyond us that we may not have communion with them; but in Him, our Master, our Guide, our Closest, Dearest Friend we have all the dearest, all the great ideas. We have more than this. We have the Ideal. Turn Thou, we pray Thee this morning, our eyes, therefore, unto Him, and grant us this morning a blessing in the Name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

PRAYERS IN TIME OF WAR

"Judge of the nations, be with us yet, lest we forget, lest we forget."—Sept. 20, 1914.

ALMIGHTY Father, we, Thy children, assemble here again to thank Thee for this fellowship and our faith. We thank Thee that whatever has happened since we saw one another in the flesh, permanencies of the spirit abide.

We are here this morning, the earth in the hollow of Thine hand, the heavens with all their constellations within the mighty orbit of Thy love, Thou God over all, blessed forever. We rejoice in the stability of the unseen. We thank Thee that, accustoming our minds to the invisible, we are drawn out of the things of earth and time and flesh and away from the desolation of blood and bone to the things that shall be when the last battle is fought and when the last shaking of the earth shall avail no more. We come this morning because Thou hast created us in Thine own image. We are of the Spirit; our destinies are spiritual; our rewards spiritual.

We come to Thee, O God, once more, and beg Thee to forgive us that we have forgotten. We sing "Lest we forget": Lo! we have forgotten. We had gone away. We ourselves had begun to believe in things of time and bone, that physical power was judge; the great

things of the earth were something more than dust in the ballast. We pray Thee that as we see the futility and the waste and the crime and the woe we may humble ourselves before Thee and know that we did forget. Wilt Thou forgive and forget? We have gone wrong. Forget, O Lord, because Thou dost forgive the little things in our lives that make us unfit to look upon the great problems of our day without prejudice. Forgive our personal ill temper; forgive our haste of judgment; forgive our willingness to revenge; forgive our desire to possess some of the things of time; forgive our arrogance; forgive our trust in the physical power. So make each one of us what each one of us may be in Thee, Christ Jesus, that wherever each one of us is, there will be a good man, yonder a good woman, there a good child, self-controlled, impassionate, poised, calm, peaceful, true. Make this place, O Lord, in the days to come a place of calm consideration. Thine altars we never loved before, we think, for we may bring to Thine altars to-day things that we dare not bring to any other spot of sacredness in the universe. We hear Thee telling us "To thine altars, O Israel." May this place of meeting from Sunday to Sunday be a place of wisdom, Thy wisdom; of truth, Thy truth; of devotion to ideals that are not shot to pieces in the fray nor stained with blood.

We ask in the Name of the Prince of Peace, who is also the Captain of our Salvation, even Jesus Christ. Amen.

O LORD, because Thou hast manifested and expressed Thine own nature in Jesus Christ, because looking through the Son we see the Father and we know the Father has manifested in the Son, we bring to Thee again the memory of the fact that our earth is stained and stricken with war. O Lord, we pray Thee by Thine own power and in such a manner as that war shall cease. Wilt Thou lead men and women to the consideration of the command of our Lord, Jesus Christ; may we hear over the storm of battle and shriek of shell the Voice saying, "Peace I give unto you. My Peace, my Peace I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid." We ask in the Name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

ALMIGHTY God, our Father, lover of all Thy children, who dost love Thy children in the midst of their mistakes and their sins, who dost bring light out of darkness, who dost turn instruments of war into instruments of peace, we pray Thee at this hour summon the conscience of our race, and make the wrath of man to praise Thee, in the Name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Peace Sunday, October 4, 1914.

I

ALMIGHTY God, Author of all peace, Lover of concord, we bring to Thee this morning our world, torn and stained; our hearts, repentant and expectant of Thy blessing; our lives, unworthy of the least of the seeds which Thou art ready to sow even in the midst of peace and in the midst of the torrent of war. We bring to Thee our souls, born of Thee, of Thine own sparks from the great universal flame of life. We ask Thee to forgive us and to bless us; we ask Thee to direct our prayers and our thoughts this morning that we may have in Thy presence some understanding of what should be our humility, of what also should be our obedience, and of what should be our faith in the midst of the clouds and the darkness. And we ask all this in the Name and for the sake of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

II

O GOD, who art the Father of all and who alone makest men to be of one mind in a house, we beseech Thee at this time of strife to grant us by the inspiration of Thy Holy Spirit a fuller realization of our brotherhood,

man with man in Thee. Allay our anger and bitterness and deepen in us a sense of truth and equity in our dealings one with another, for the sake of Thy Son, our Lord, Jesus Christ. Amen.

III

O GOD, who hast made of one blood all nations of men to dwell on the face of the earth, who in Thy Holy Word hast taught us that One is our Father, that we all are brethren, we pray Thee in this dark hour of international strife that Thou wilt open the eyes of Thy people, those who in Thy Name are entrusted with the authority of government to see and understand their right and true relation to Thee and through Thee to one another. Teach them that hatred and violence are not strength, but weakness; that the true safeguarding of a nation is not to be found in weapons of war, but in these eternal principles which make for truth and brotherhood. Give to those who shall suffer in the war which is now raging the consolations of Thy Grace; heal the sick and comfort the wounded; minister to the dying and bind up the broken heart. Bring, we pray Thee, to a speedy end this international battle, and hasten, we pray Thee, the time when peace shall flourish out of the earth and all shall dwell together in unity and

love and war shall be no more. We ask it in the Name of our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

IV

O LORD God of infinite Peace, we humbly beseech Thee to look down upon the nations now engaged in war. Reckon not against Thy people their many iniquities, for from the lusts of our own hearts comes fighting, and war is among us. Look, we pray Thee, in mercy upon those immediately exposed to peril, conflict, sickness and death; comfort the prisoners, relieve the sufferings of the wounded, and show mercy to the dying. Remove in Thy good providence, we beseech Thee, all the causes, all the occasions for war; dispose the hearts of those engaged therein to moderation, and in Thy great goodness, restore peace among the nations, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

ALMIGHTY Love, Thou who alone art mighty because Thou art love, we thank Thee for the religion of benediction and that no music in this world or in any other world can make the music of malediction otherwise than sad and dark and noisesome and wrong. We thank Thee, as we hear this old Hebraic song with its revenges, for Him

who took the little children into His arms and blessed them and did not ask for their heredity, but out of His outpouring soul of love gave His blessing to humanity.

We pray to-day that as the shadow stretches across this world and darkness and woe and weariness are all about, that all revenge may die away and that the sweeter and holier qualities may come forth in all these embattled hosts. Forgive us, Lord, if we, as a nation, appeal from Christian sentiments to sentiments of revenge. We ask in the Name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

O GOD, in these moments of great trial, in these hours when nations are plunging with havoc of war against nations; when the earth shakes beneath the feet of armies, we look to Thee. We pray Thee, in Christ's Name, that Thou wilt show us to the establishment of our faith the attack of all these, the earth's afflictions, to be of Thine own hand, to be of Thine own grace. Stay, we pray Thee, the progress of everything save the progress of truth and righteousness. Answer, we beseech Thee, the prayers of those that mourn, the widowed and orphaned of the world. O Lord, establish righteousness. May we know how much everything costs which is worthy to be a banner for our civilization. May we know that this is Calvary again, and may we

stand reverently and may we as a race, if the darkest hour shall come, say as He said, "For this cause came I unto this hour." Father, glorify Thy Name. And O Lord, when the voice in the midnight speaks may something be done worth all this cost. We ask in the Name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

ALMIGHTY God, Father of all humanity, we bring to Thee this morning tears of sorrow and a race afflicted, and we pray Thee to turn aside the wrath of man for the chariots of the Almighty. We beseech Thee, at this time, O Lord, especially, to bless the President of the United States and all others associated with him in authoritative government. Grant to the people of this country, we beseech Thee, the calm that befits an hour of such importance in the history of the world. Give to our beloved United States such union of sentiment in prayer as will dispose us to proper procedure in the light of law and liberty and justice and truth before the throne of Almighty God. We devoutly pray in the Name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

O LORD, we are conscious of our sins; we are conscious of our weaknesses; we are conscious of deliberate wrong-doing. Each

one of us is conscious here this morning of the possibilities of such mistakes in life as come only from wrong-heartedness. Cleanse our hearts, we beseech Thee. Bind us, we pray Thee, to the cross of Jesus; tether us, we who are wandering, tether us, we beseech Thee with all the intimacy of all the love of Almighty grace to the one thing in the world which our poor old world has distrusted—the one thing which in the midst of all the clash of arms we have despised: the cross of Christ, self-sacrifice. O for one moment of world self-sacrifice, for one moment in which selfishness, self-conceit, self-appreciation may fade from our thoughts. We pray for this in the Name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

O LORD, while we pray for others in the midst of battle, we pray for the sake of others and for the world, for the United States of America, for our President and Congress assembled, for all the officers who guide and enforce public opinion. But above all we pray for any who may affect the opinions and ideals of the American people, that we may be so guided and kept within the bounds of order and law, and especially of unaffected devotion unto Thee, that we may serve the cause of peace and hope of the world, through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

WE turn our thoughts this morning from these fields of faith, these fields of love, these fields of opportunity and grace, to fields trampled with hoofs of steel, furrowed with cannon and broken in the agony of a great contest. Almighty God, Thou art the Ruler of the Universe. May we be calm and in the hush of our faith may we know that the maps of the earth are not made upon the earth; may we know that above all the shriek of shell and storm of battle is our God. O Lord, pierce the gloom with Thy Spirit and comfort. Bless the homeless and the orphan; we beseech Thee, staunch the wounds of this poor, blundering world of ours, and grant us peace in our time. We ask in the Name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

LORD God Almighty, in whose hands are the balances of justice and in whose heart are the sympathies of the eternal, we pray Thee again this morning that peace may come into our hearts, first of all to abide there and to send all warring and contentious things from our minds, to prepare us for the life of constructive and beautiful progress, to make our lives, lives so white, so pure, and so strong that in our battles there shall be no residue of blood, no aching wounds but that the wounds that have been made shall be staunched and cease bleeding and hearts that are broken may

be mended as by the Divine Hand of Love. So we pray Thee over the earth to stretch the sceptre of Thy reign and out of all confusion and blood bring safety and peace to the nations. We ask in the Name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

O LORD, when such a canvas is stretched before our hearts as day by day exhausts our interest and attracts our attention, we fail unless Thou art with us in the little duties of life and all the employments and demands that come to children and to the weak folk of the world. We pray Thee that nothing may take from us the consent of our minds with Jesus Christ our Lord to make every path of life a place in which the lame may walk and every way a Highway for the blind in their weakness, and all our life a life of such response to Thy Spirit that wherever we are there may be a Gospel, an Epistle, known and read of all men. We ask this in the Name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

O THOU Author of all things good, Thou to whom evil is but the shadow of goodness, we pray Thee that in these present conflicts men with men, empires with empires, we may know there is but one contest in which we are worthily engaged, and that is against evil in behalf of good. Gird us until like sol-

diers of the Almighty we shall march under the Captain of our Salvation to a mighty victory. We pray in the Name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

WE lift our voices and our hearts to Thee, O God, for any and all that are in perplexity, from him whom we have chosen as President of the United States to the least conspicuous and perhaps most sorrowful of mankind. Lord, we thank Thee that even the hairs of our head are numbered, we thank Thee that Thou dost put our tears into Thy bottle, we thank Thee that nothing escapes Thee. So we pray for those whom we love and those whom we do not love because we have not known them, those whom Thou lovest largely because they have no other lover in the world. May they have the guidance of the Holy Spirit. May they walk after Him who has gone through the deepest of darknesses and most sorrowful of tribulations, even our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

WE pray Thee this morning, Heavenly Father, that our faith may soar even above the battle-fields while Thou dost give Thy comfort, while Thou dost help us to minister with our abundance to the want of the world. O, wilt Thou create throughout the

world an anticipation of a welcome for the Prince of Peace! Wilt Thou bring speedily to an end, we pray Thee, the sorrow and the pain of these distracted times? We ask in the Name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

O GOD of Peace, as we approach Thy throne, we see upon the throne the slain Lamb, and we know that this sacrifice is the vast expense paid and the cost of liberty and justice and peace. We pray Thee that if we must be reconciled to the shedding of blood we may also be assured that out of it all there shall come a better day. But we pray Thee that we may know Thy truth when with lips divine it is spoken. "It must be that offenses shall come. Woe unto him by whom the offense cometh." May our skirts be clear; may our hands be white; may the shield of this our Nation be spotless; may we all be without blame. O God, we pray Thee to stay the dreadful tide of battle and blood and death. We beseech Thee to restore peace to our world, in the Name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

O LORD God of men and of nations, Thou hast not only said unto us, "Bow thee in the dust, and I will answer thee; kneel

before me, all ye peoples of the earth and I will bless you," but Thou hast said, "Son of man, stand upon thy feet, and I will speak unto thee." We come after the Easter Day in the glory of the first week of our risen Lord's influence on the earth to stand upon our feet in the self-respect, in the joy and anticipations of the new life, but we bring to Thee especially, Heavenly Father, as we stand, the prayer for national truthfulness, a national patience, as well as a national self-respect. We pray for Thy blessing upon those who may be so soon our enemies in war. We pray that Thou shouldst guide them as well as us; that Thou subdue passion and pour upon the too much and well-nigh explosive elements of revolution the waters of peace. Let the fires die down as we realize in both nations the work of our own humanity, the work of creating international peace and international honor. We ask this, our first prayer; we ask this in the Name of the Prince of Peace. Amen.

O THOU God of Peace, we bring to Thee again in this place the regrets, the self-reproach, the sorrow, yea, the doubt that haunts us with regard to humanity and ourselves in the presence of this doleful war. And we bring to Thee the prayers of our sincerest souls that Thou in Thine own might and in Thine own time shalt show us what Thou

wouldst have us do. Bring the day of the great peace. Comfort, we beseech Thee, the stricken, the sad, the broken-hearted; be Thou near the wounded and give courage, we beseech Thee, to those who are losing faith it may be in the main things of life: in justice in generosity, in truth, in virtue, and in peace. We ask in the Name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

FAR from the field of conflict which amazes our poor world and shakes the earth, we bring to Thee our own battles. We ask Thee to make it entirely sure in our souls that when we are fighting we are fighting for the right. We ask Thee to make it entirely certain to us that we are of the sword bathed in heaven, moving on to the larger conquest of ourselves. May we know that He who ruleth with His Spirit is greater than he that taketh the city. May we so follow the lead of our Saviour that more and more we may become Christlike in the mighty forgiveness which comes through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

O THOU God of all peace, who art our salvation because Thou art love eternal, enfolding love, hear our prayer as we come to Thee with the world in the agony of a new

birth as we believe, paying the eternal cost, as we believe, of progress and yet humbled because of the wickedness that Thou art turning into strength and righteousness by a Providence we do not understand. Lord, as we stand to-day in the afternoon, it may be, of history, looking upon the pillar of cloud in the daytime and the pillar of fire in the night, strengthen our belief that Thou dost know whither Thou goest with us, and that, knowing that Thou knowest, it shall be all in all to us. We ask Thee in the Name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

FATHER in Heaven, when heaven seems so far away, we bring to Thee the prayers of the stricken and the sad, and especially those that are in battle arrayed for righteousness, they that are struggling for personal purity or personal self-control. We offer the prayers that are coming to us in the feebleness of our words, but we offer these prayers to Him who is strong. We know that the hands out of which these prayers go are poor and ignorant and weak, but we know that the hands into which these prayers go are the hands of Omnipotence. We pray for those who have sent their word of beseeching here that Thou mayest answer their prayers and our prayers, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

O GOD, our Father, we pray for the Government of the United States of America in these times of great peril. We beseech Thee, Thou God of all nations, to give us sobriety of judgment, and a love for righteousness. Take away all fear that we may have for anything except that we may come short of Thy glory and Thy purpose. Let us fear Thee, O Lord, and help us to fear nothing else. Father, we pray Thee that in these moments when the children of men seem to be sundered one from another that some word may be spoken by Thy Good Spirit in the silence between the battle shouts that shall grant unto all the world a new and lasting peace. We pray in the Name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

WE are thankful to Thee, Almighty Father, we who are in the dark, that "joy cometh in the morning." We are grateful to Thee for any experience of darkness or gloom that shall bring us into the freshness and glory of the dawn light, and we come bringing to Thee upon our hearts our nation, the President of these United States, and the whole weary and stricken world, thanking Thee that Thine own mighty hand clasps all the tragedy of our situation, and that "joy cometh in the morning." We pray Thee that we may know

and understand that divine power is greater than ours, that no accident or incident of time must negative the calm eternity of our Father. Lord God, we leave all in Thine own hands excepting the doing of our duty, and we pray Thee that every one in all our world of sorrow and anguish may look up unto Thee and be ready for Thine own word spoken out of the midst of the storm and tempest, so that when peace shall come to the world, it shall be the peace of God that passeth all understanding. We ask in the Name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

O GOD, what we are most concerned about in the presence of these dire forces that work with such malady and distress is our own part and our own position, our own sin. God of mercy, forgive us; forgive us if we have sinned against the order that makes society safe; forgive us if we have been against Thee and Thy Holy Spirit, and if in the midst of the tempest we have yielded and have done as we wished to do and not as we ought to have done, and if our wills have come to be supreme in their contempt of Thy law, if we have trampled upon the ordinances of duty as we have, and as we all confess. O God help us to see that it is this in our personal lives that provides for the storms and the revolutions and the blood and the sorrows of love. Forgive us, we

pray Thee, restore unto us the joy of Thy salvation.

Some of us are in great temptation even this morning. This is a place of refuge. Our boats have come in out of the terrible storm. We are frightened even at ourselves. We are unable to guide in the darkness and tempest. God of Mercy, Christ of Heaven, be Thou our guide, that the divine power throughout all the world manifested in Jesus Christ may save us, rescue us, hold us, hold us against our own will, if it must be. We pray in the Name of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

O GOD of Peace and of Love, how can we sufficiently thank Thee for this sweet disposing of our minds by the truth from above! How real is the ideal; how practical is the poetical, when Thou dost shed upon us the light of the ideal in the midst of what else were sordid and heavy and burdensome in life and when Thou art the great poet making Thine own numbers to be solved, filling the minds of Thy children in the days and hours of worship and adoration with Thine own presence of calm! Great God, it is Thy greatness in which we nestle. Thy gentleness hath made us great. Thou art so tender and kind. Thou dost come in such softness of light; Thou dost woo us by such sweet persuasion; Thou dost come to us with such an appeal—half silent,

half revealed and half concealed—that Thou wouldst not break our wills, but lead them; Thou wouldst not crush our personalities, but Thou wouldst unfold them as Thou hast unfolded the bud of May in the days of July into the mossy rose of these days, as Thou hast led the grape bursting now in all its purple fullness under the touch of life all the way through the whitening foam of Springtime in the arbors, as Thou art now leading us.

We thank Thee for the calming power of immortal ideas. We glorify Thee, Heavenly Father, for the oceanic calm in which our noisy little cataracts run. We thank Thee for the mass, the magnitude and grandeur and depth of the sky above us. Over all the fields that are noisy and bloody stretches Thy peace. Forgive us, forgive us that we have not been true to it all! Forgive us, we pray Thee, this morning that we have been ourselves tumultuous. Help us now to receive the deepest and best blessing from Thee—the blessing of the peace that passeth all understanding. Give Thy peace to the world through giving Thy peace to each human child of Thine. We ask in the Name of Him whom we call the Prince of Peace—even Jesus. Amen.

O LORD our Father from whom we receive the gift of faith, we believe that even in the torn and distracted world of to-

day, with its bleeding and its wound, with its heart of agony and its feeling of shame, the world is yet in the making: Thou art creating a new world. We pray that we may look upon the cross of Jesus Christ to know the value of suffering in the re-creation of everything. May we, as a nation, refuse to receive anything save the blessing that shall lead us where our Master was led when He said, "I, if I be lifted up, will draw all men unto me." Fill us with the spirit of self-sacrifice; dethrone our national greed and boastfulness; give us the spirit that shall make us brotherly and true, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

TO Thee, unto Thy holiness, we bring our unholy world, strayed away, broken-hearted, divided and in the midst of the toils and tumults of war. O, for Christ's sake, Heavenly Father, restore unto us the peace that is of righteousness and give unto Thy servants everywhere, those in presidencies, in offices of influence, the leadership of Thy Holy Spirit, that the world may be Thy world, dedicated to the uses of humanity through our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

WE beseech Thee this morning, O Lord, that in the midst of the turmoil of a world of strife, we may hear the voices of

peace and righteousness. O Lord, make us vigorous as a nation, strong in our faith that without righteousness no peace is worthy. We pray Thee, O God, that we may understand the meaning of all the events which throng upon the canvas to the bewilderment of our poor eyesight, that we may understand it by faith —faith in the bleeding Lamb of Calvary, symbol of all progress, where all the atonements in the world are guaranteed by Him, our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

O LORD, with no such voice of praise and with no such marching of melody do we continue to come before Thee. We cannot come always with words which have fallen from inspired lips, but we come with uninspired lips for inspiration this morning and our call is the call of a great need. The poverty of our soul comes upon us as a great famine; we realize we are in the midst of great possibilities with hands too weak to touch them, and we are in the midst of commanding realities of time and eternity and our hearts fail us and our minds are bewildered. We are in great need. We are in great need because we are asking of men in the midst of these times that they shall be close unto the sources of power. So we are coming together these mornings to find how greatness has cast its crown at the feet of the Redeemer; and may

we be led in all the events of our lives to the loyal worship of that which is good and true and beautiful, as Thou hast manifested all of these in our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

O LORD our God, we pray that every influence of goodness and every power of Thy grace and every kingly tribute of truth and justice may be enshrined in these days of trembling and trial. The Lord grant to our own nation especially the grace to be true, the power to be just. May we be fearless in the truth; may we know that our God hath been from the beginning the God of justice and righteousness. Father, may we not ask for an easy path and ask to avoid any great duty, and, having earnestly pleaded in this place for the peace that shall cover the world with a garment of a mother's love, and having found in these times the warring elements of our nature still at work, we pray now that the peace which may come to the world may be a lasting one, because it may be the peace of righteousness, in our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

ALMIGHTY Father, within the circuit of whose loving power are stormy billows, we rejoice in the safety of the universe in which we live, in the security of law, and in

the providence of Thy goodness. "How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord. . . ." Such is our song always and especially, Father, as we try to be true to the facts of life and really see the stormy billows and their fury and know that there are untoward and rebellious forces in the world. Then it is we look to Thee. And then we know that no billow is as deep as God and no height of ocean's spray is as lofty as God and we take to ourselves the word of the prophet "But the Lord God, but the Lord God, He is mighty." We bring our halting spirits, our lame thoughts, our imaginations which are often appealed to by that which is unworthy, and we ask that the thought of God shall restore our thought from lameness to soundness and strength and shall fill our imagination with the majesty, the calm, the awe, the greatness that is more than of earth and heaven. We ask this great blessing through our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

O LORD, we pray a prayer unto Thee and offer a petition that might in some way answer in itself our own desires; we pray Thee that Thou shalt lead us in these times of great distress. We do not ask Thee to send others, but to send us. We do not ask Thee to influence from afar so much as to influence right here and now our gifts, our symbols, our

prayers in their direction. Surely Thou dost see a stricken world; surely the pain of the time touches some great note of response in eternity. O Lord, are we not Thy body? Didst Thou not say when some one had asked Thee how the human brethren may come to Thee when Thou art gone: "He that hath done it unto the least of these, my brethren, hath done it unto me"? Lord, show us the least of these and help us with willing feet and open hands to discharge the obligations of our love to Thee, in the Name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

WE thank Thee, our Heavenly Father for all the influence of Thy grace. We believe, O Lord, that Thou hast a hand in human history that is final and decisive. We believe to-day there is a Lord, as out of the cloud there comes a gleam of light so strange and so new from sources perhaps least expected to send this light that the measure of Thy goodness may be prophesied in the future. By the will of Thy Spirit dispose all the nations of the earth to reason. Help us, we pray Thee, to be willing to consider. Let us not assume that Thy Spirit has forsaken any people, and may we in these moments when no one is satisfied with the judgment of what may be a hostile nation, be satisfied with Thee; satisfied that Thou shalt work out through the influence of Thy good

Spirit the blessing of peace. This we pray in the Name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

O LORD, we pray that all confusion of tongues and that all hostilities as between men and men and women and women, and even little children, that the enmities of the day and generation in which we find ourselves may be all swallowed as the night is swallowed in the day. May the stream which is so perturbed be so lost in the sea that we shall find mighty depths and soon, and find ourselves in the largeness and beauty of that voyage from coast to coast and shall reach home at last, in the Name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

ALMIGHTY God, in whose evolutions all revolutions are bathed in the stream, Father in heaven in whose mighty hand all rebelliousness and all disorder are held with the calm of love and with the power of a divine intention, take Thou the strength wasted, the tears shed upon the bloody ground, the agonies that cry to heaven. Make Thou out of them the concord of the future. Turn, we pray Thee, the forces of evil toward good. Let the sod which has been made so wet with the lives of spent men be the triumphant place of Thy goodness. May the wine press which is being

trodden by the willing and unwilling feet bear the result of Thine own providence.

Bless Thou the President of the United States and those associated with him in government; grant to all the people who at last must rule with their sentiments and opinions the guidance of the Holy Spirit, through our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

O LORD, we are in a world of light and shadow and Thou hast created the light and because of the light there comes the shadow. We scarcely know sometimes for what we should pray, but we know that ultimately peace is the order of the going of our Father, and we know that peace and peace alone shall bring victories to us larger and sweeter and greater than all the victories of war. O, our Heavenly Father, when the heart is sick at the behavior and the ill-considered passion and the woe of these moments of international pain we devoutly pray Thee to bring out of the womb of darkness and travail some birth of justice, some new figure of righteousness that shall rule the world, through our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

O THOU God who lookest upon the earth and seest the problems of man's life in the wilfulness of our humanity, Thou who dost turn over into man's hand the awful gift

of freedom, the choices that wreck us, we pray Thee at this moment of tumult and distraction, in these hours of bloodshed, in these moments when we look to Thee and do not know what to ask, that we may be permitted to ask this: that righteousness may fill the earth and that righteousness and peace may dwell together in men's lives to the honor and glory of Thyself, in the Name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

WHILE the earth shakes and the fair heavens are stained, while the smoke of battle rises to conceal the stars, Thou art above it all. Thou shalt guide out of it all the forces of eternal benefit. O, may we learn to trust Thee. May we know, Heavenly Father, that no human hand may stop this desolation; may we be in such prayer all the time that Thou shalt be willing and Thou shalt be able to give us without loss the blessing of peace for all the world. We pray in the Name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

O GOD, how there stretch from our hearts to-day the expectation and the hope so often frustrated, the love and the desire so often broken in upon, the plans that reach around the world. God of peace, God of mercy, God of justice, guide Thy poor child, Humanity, stricken and bleeding, and may

Thine own child, Humanity, rise out of all this tumult and distress girded for the victories of righteousness. We must leave so much, and we are glad to leave all, with Thee. O Thou who art above the clouds, Thou who holdest the winds of heaven in Thy hand, "clouds of darkness are round about him, but justice and judgment are the habitation of his throne." Help us in this nation, we pray Thee, each in his own place to be where each one of us ought to be, to be thinking and feeling as we ought to think and as we ought to feel. In the Name of the Father, we pray. Amen.

O THOU Holy and Loving Father, who dost behold the sorrows of Thy children and their open wounds, we pray Thee that upon every place this earth may know—where agony has come and where sorrows abide, there mayest Thou stand in the infinite love and majesty of Thine own healing power. We pray Thee to-day, especially, that in the thunder and shock of battle there, above it all there may be the open heaven. Forgive, restrain, O God; calm by Thine omnipotent love the waves of this angry sea. Forgive us all for anything in us that may lead to such personal catastrophe and downfall of our faith in ourselves. May we hold so closely to Thee that in the midst of all these providences we shall be able to see a hand and feel its touch

and follow its guidance. We pray in the Name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

O LORD God, who art the God of battles as well as of peace, who above all art the God of righteousness and truth, we beseech Thee that at this time Thou mayest put upon the children of men in their agony Thy hand of healing, and, O Lord, if it be the bloody sword of Christ, if indeed there be a cross behind it all on some lonely Calvary and our humanity be crucified again and Christ Himself yield up the ghost on Golgotha for the larger and sweeter liberty and holy peace, help us above all to seek to relieve the wounds and sorrows of those who are engaged in this combat. Lord God, may we not stand here as the American people to receive simply the results that come to us in coin, that come in dishonor, that may come in added wealth and added disgrace, but may all our duties be performed in our own country to all the countries of the earth, through our Lord, Jesus Christ. Amen.

O LORD, our God, we bring to Thee the issues of life and death, we bring to Thee the issues of peace and war. We pray for those who are dying that they may live in the spirit. We pray for those who are in the midst of the contentions of earth that they may find the peace of God that passeth all

understanding. We pray for the pardon of our sins, the inspiration of the Spirit, we pray that the nameless and unnameable blessings that we need for our salvation and sanctification may be ours and may be the gift of God to all the world in the Name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

O LORD, Thou who hast touched the world with the mystery of Thine own mighty plan under which we live and in which we behold wonder after wonder, in which just now we find calamity adding itself to the ravage of war, O Thou God who hidest Thyself, clouds and darkness are round about Thee, justice and judgment are the habitation of Thy throne. Make us humble, we pray Thee, but above all make us kind and may the streams of brotherhood go out to-day to those who are in want and woe. May war's dark, sad chapter soon be ended and out of all the crucifixions of time may the Lord of Glory come to His own. We ask in the Name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

O LORD, we pray Thee in the midst of disaster and darkness to lead the path of our faith on and ever on. May we not be fearful. May we not be turned aside from truth. May we desire one thing and one thing only: the victory of righteousness and love

and faith of our Lord. O God, our Father, bless, we pray Thee, the President of the United States; bless all those who stand about him for consulting and guidance, but above all we beseech Thee to bless the common people. As Jesus came and the common people heard Him gladly, so we may hear His voice above the elements, the voice of our Elder Brother, even Jesus, in whose Name we pray. Amen.

PRAYERS OFFERED ON SPECIAL OCCASIONS

New Years

O THOU God of Eternity, Thou to whom we come and behold the sands of time flowing beneath Thine eye, marking the events of our lives with the years and uniting to something permanent as Thou art permanent that which is fleeting, as our acts and even our lives are fluent and passing, deepen in us, we pray Thee, this morning the sense of Eternity. Let us know, O God, from above, by some whisper out of the Eternal, the meaning of Time. May we realize that we are of yesterday, but that the eternal to-morrow stretches before us by the nature of our God, and to Him we give all glory of our New Year's praise and prayer, in the Name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

ALMIGHTY and ever-living God, we cling to Thee as we try to tell Thy name to ourselves. We cannot pronounce the name of the Almighty, save in the terms of our experience, as we would pronounce the name of our father and our mother and our friends. Help us, gracious Lord, this morning to so experience Thy goodness, Thy watchfulness, and Thy continued mercy guiding us that we shall know that He whom we serve we see and hear, and call Him our God.

Father, we are just little children. We are handling things of infinite meaning. We know Thou dost not ask of us omniscience or omnipotence, but that we should lie down in the arms of omnipotence and look up into the eyes of omniscience; that we should know in Thy knowledge and be powerful in Thy power. So make us little children through the childhood of our Elder Brother, Thy perfect Child, Jesus. In His Name and for His sake, we ask it. Amen.

TO Thee, O God, we pray, who hast comprehended our whole life in the Gospel of Thy Son, Jesus Christ, who hath not left us alone with Christmas, with all its beauty and fair tradition and its sweet story; because we have to live our life with the heights above us and on the level plain. We make our roadway down through the abysses and across the gorges. And there is another side to life beside the greatness of heroism: the richness of Thine own spirit in the children of man, and we thank Thee that He who came to us the incarnate Christmas, bringing to us the Christmass, bringing to us the very solution of the problem of life with its humiliation and its meagreness and its straightness—we thank Thee that He bore our griefs and carried our sorrows; that it was not alone the visit of the Wise Men, but the visit of fools, also; that it

was not alone the song of angels, but the cry of the disgraced and the sorrowful and the pained. We thank Thee that He heard not only the voice of the Infinite above Him, but that He heard the cry of the dying thief.

Surely He hath borne our grief and carried our sorrows and knows our pathway between these experiences. We ask Thee to help us to look upon it seriously, with the utmost friendship, in the atmosphere one for another, not boasting, but humble. We ask in the Name of the Captain of our Salvation, even Jesus. Amen.

National Days

O LORD, as we see in our time the condition of mighty forces and as we behold prostrate before us the results of so much of our carelessness and thoughtlessness by which there have grown up in our national and personal life such littlenesses, such dwarfed conceptions and inadequate ideals as make us ashamed to look into the face of a great national figure, and as we come to-day, O Lord, and remember Thy Gift unto us, we pray Thee again to forgive us our sins. Forgive the indolence, forgive the ease, forgive the luxuriousness, forgive the passion for mere joy and happiness of the body, forgive us the wanderings of our nation, while we thank Thee for Abraham Lincoln, his sincerity, his simplicity,

in the Name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

WE would know Thee in history, in the pages of the past that have been gathered with all their beauty and inspiration, in the flag of our fathers. We would know Thee in all those transcendent dreams of the life and fortune of man which thrilled their minds, swayed their wills and gave unction and power to all they accomplished. We would know Thee in thankfulness, Father, for such broad monuments for patriotism as they have created for us; we would know Thee, Father, in Thy children, Thy great children that have given unto us such inspirations and definitions of manhood that we cannot look upon this flag without remembering them, the flag of those who have held and saved and worked beneath it in all the measures of peace. O God, as Thy cross is dear to us, so identify the cause of the flag in all the future with the cause of the cross of Jesus, that our flag may have the perfection and safeguarding of that immortal symbol, through our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

O LORD, we are not unawake to the might and wonder of Thy providence in history. We have passed a great, golden milestone in our own national annals. Thou art

still stirring the nations of the earth. We pray Thee for Thy blessing upon all mankind. Unite us, we beseech Thee, as a family around a hearthstone where the throne of Thine honor dwelleth. Make wars to cease, we beseech Thee, but above all make peace honorable and just and righteous. We ask in the Name of our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

GRACIOUS Father, the universe of Thine own, undespoiled by sin, is full of such evident meaning that when our eyes are single and pure we seem to be walking in the Heaven of Heavens. We know our earth is on the way from the terrestrial to the celestial, from the lower to the higher. We are in the midst of world pain. It is like our own personal life, gracious Father. The pain is the pain of progress, the agony is the agony of birth. If we bleed, it is as the flower bleeds when the blossom comes from the bud. We thank Thee that Thou hast given us one Life, one Leader, whose whole character and history have been such a comfort to us in the long, long ways of progress. We see His cross, but just above the cross we see the martyr's crown. We see Him upon the day of His sorrow, when men fell from Him and those whom He had trusted were proven unworthy, and yet in that Garden of Gethsemane He comes to be the pattern of all who have sorrows because there are great

things to do. Every soldier of humanity has been able to lean against Him and see in His wounds the long story of sacrifice in the history of our planet and our race.

So we bring to Him this morning, in the name of our religion, another laurel crown out of American life, another laurel—old; more than a century, but fresh and new with blossoms, thanking Thee and thanking our Master, our Brother, for this plan of progress. Amen.

O LORD, in an age when we are likely to be attracted by *things* instead of *thoughts,* may we ask how great men are made. May we look to the scarred face on Calvary to see molded the mighty leaders of our modern manhood.

Forgive us our sins as American citizens, that we have not recognized the value of those simple and superb virtues which come back to-day with the recollection of more than one hundred years. Forgive us, our Father, that we have forgotten our duties of men in a republic, the duties of men and women in the new dawning democracy, the new duties that need to be performed lest the leaders shall be leaders of the blind,—blind leaders of the blind. Forgive us through the blessing on high on the whole nation to-day. Guard the life of the President of the United States; guard and guide him and all others in authority

by Thy gracious love. Give us, we beseech Thee, to-day the realization of the enormous responsibility of power and help us in all the activities of education and charity, that each man may feel his own responsibility as in the olden times. May every man before his own doorway make the pathway safe, and may every man by his own gathering of the manna in the morning-time have the fresh inspiration of divine grace in the Leader of all men and the Master of all men, even Jesus. Amen.

Palm Sunday

O LORD God Almighty, who art clothed with honor and majesty, may the worship which we bring to Thee this morning clothe again our thought of Thee with the honor and majesty of Thy being. O our God, whose name and nature is love, who coverest with light as with a garment, wilt Thou so cover us in all the dealings that Thou hast for us and unto us and with us in Thy providence with light, that we shall be the children of light in Thy presence and for Thy sake. And now, O Lord, take enough of the word of Thy servant who came to this day of palms without losing his insight, without losing his sight of Thee. We ask Thy blessing upon us in this worship as we look with him through our blessings to the Day of Sorrow, out of whose

depth there comes the rejoicing of all time. We pray in the Name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

OUR Heavenly Father, Thou hast created us and redeemed us. Thou knowest us altogether; Thou knowest all of us. We gather 'round our Father's hearthstone and we find our Father's throne in sight, and we know that our Father hath declared His Fatherhood unto us through His Son, our Elder Brother, Jesus Christ.

We see Him this morning, at the beginning of this Holy Week, making all of life holy. Father in heaven and on earth, Father of our life here and of our life forever, may we not in the pride of our life turn aside from the teachings as we rehearse them from day to day in this week, until the Easter dawn. May we be prepared especially this morning for the days that are to come, that we may enter the gates of that Easter Morning again with thanksgiving, as we may enter the gates of heaven again with joy! O, God of Justice and of Mercy and of Truth and of Pity, we thank Thee that there has been something done of such import and of such significance that today all over the world—in the hamlet and in the city, in Orient and Occident, in missionary stations and in the great cathedrals, on the sea and on the mountain top,—men and women are

looking up with a strange, sweet feeling of forgiving love. "Surely Thou hast borne our griefs and carried our sorrows," Thou Christ of God! Help us to feel the pressure and command of these facts, as we set out with our poor, blundering feet in the way of life. Help us, O Lord, to take to ourselves the comfort of this fact as the way grows dark and the burden heavy. Help us to take this morning, the deliverance of the fact as we mourn our transgressions; help us to receive the fact—the one Fact that has come through the ages unimpaired in its beauty and has overthrown kingdoms and re-created life for Man! Even Jesus, our Lord and Master. Amen.

Easter

"Surely, He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows."

WE add to our prayers, O God, the thanksgiving of our hearts that we have found such a pathway as this to the everlasting Burden-bearer. We thank Thee, our Father, that the Lamb that was slain from the foundation of the world is the testimony to the fact that Thou hast put Thine own strength under our burden. We rejoice in the tenderness with which Thou hast carried this burden in the person of our Saviour, Jesus Christ, through the Garden of Gethsemane, up the

steeps of Calvary, into the grave of Joseph of Arimathea, to Olivet and to Heaven.

Make us grateful men and women this morning, that beneath everything else Thou hast borne our iniquities and below all else in the uttermost darkness Thou art carrying our burden. Make our lives sacred this morning by the help and influence of Him who died, that we might have life and life more abundantly, even Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

ALMIGHTY Father of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, we are like the other children of any family who point to a leader who has not been vanquished; who point to an elder brother who knows more than we do, and if we call Thee our Father to-day, it is because of the fact that there is joy in the truth that Thou art the Father of our Lord, Jesus.

We thank Thee that something comes to us out of the recollection of the memory of these days past which we have held a fond memory indeed—recollections come to us that we have a new start, a new beginning place in our impulse toward goodness—a fresh and strong ideal has come upon us, and we here and now confess it this morning that it is to be like Him who went into the grave and came out of the grave with the triumph of immortality upon His lips.

O Lord, we are amidst the dead and the dy-

ing. We find all around us the things that have passed away apparently, and they are very sweet and valuable and good. We are seeing constantly about us the perishing elements—not of this world always, but the perishing elements of beauty and truth. O Thou enriching God who comes to us this morning again with the recollection of these past days, show us that nothing can be lost that is good.

But, O Father, we have something else to learn this morning. We pray that we may learn it with all the cheerfulness of good children! May we learn that while good lives, bad dies; may we learn that while good helps us to live, bad helps us to die; that right vitalizes and wrong kills. May we stand faithful this morning as the facts may castigate us, as they may lash us with their truth and as we may find out the pitfalls and all the illusions. We pray this in the Name of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

O THOU Eternal Love who hast given Thyself unto us, Father through the Son, in order that in the perfect sonship of Jesus Christ we may be brothered back into the Household, receive this morning, we beseech Thee, our thanks and grant unto us the peace of Thy pardon, in the Name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

O ASCENDED Christ, we pray this morning as to a friend. We do not believe that any distances between those we love and our lives should call for cessation of prayer or praise. We speak this morning, O Lord, out of the stricken heart of humanity, and we pray Thee to stretch the scarred hand of Thy sacrifice over all the darkness and tumult of the times, and to give us this blessing in the Name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

O THOU God of Peace, who hast made peace for us and given us peace within, we thank Thee that it is peace with honor, peace with justice, and peace with eternal truth through Love. We thank Thee that through the misapprehensions which have come from inadequate religions that have grown up from the swamps and marshes of our thinking to cloud the fact of Eternal Love, in the sky the Son of Righteousness shines forth with healing in His wings. We thank Thee that the offering was not our offering, but Thine. We thank Thee that the altar is not a place of Thy wrath, but the place of Thy love. We thank Thee that the intentions are all to "usward" and all the same joy as the Christmas joy, in whose light we have been going toward the Easter Day. Father, grant that in each of our lives there may be a Palestine and a Galilee,

and, above all, that in each life there may be so true a story of a real gospel that in all the convulsions of time and in all the transformations of thought through darkness or through light and joy, our faith shall be stayed with the Inner Light. Amen.

O THOU God of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, who is the Resurrection and the Life, we pray Thee at this moment and in this place consecrated in these hours to the most sacred of all the functions of our life, our worship, our rededication unto Thee, that we may have planted within us those powers of the resurrection which belong to Him, even to our Master and to our Lord, Jesus Christ. Amen.

O LORD who cometh down like rain and watereth the earth, nourishing the tender herb and giving the earth the inspiration that shall bring forth fruit and harvest, we pray Thee that at this moment, after the recollection of the springtime of the soul in the resurrection of our Lord and Saviour, we may open the fields of our minds and all the woods and forest places, as well as the places of planting and even the hard and rocky places, so that the abundant and tender rain may come upon us. As Thou sayest, O God, that Thou Thyself

shall be our shield and our reward, so it has been said that Thou Thyself shall come down like rain,—nothing else but Thee, nothing short of Thee, nothing in Thy place. O, the abundant and mighty tenderness of springtime rain, breaking no heart, but healing the broken heart of winter and softening the spiritual all. Come, we pray Thee! Come, in the name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

ALMIGHTY Father, our God, our Friend, our great Companion, Thou dost not forsake us in the glory of Thine own revelation. Thou dost not create by the splendor of the shield of Thy Son, Captain of our salvation, a single great day at Easter time and leave us at the end of Easter with no Easter light or Easter comfort or Easter hope. We thank Thee, O God, that Christ is risen and that He is the risen Christ always, to be forever and ever the living Christ. So this morning we continue our songs of adoration, our praises, our hallelujahs, in the Name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

O THOU eternal Father who lookest down upon the earth and not only lookest down upon the earth, but who art with men and suffering with men, who dost come near humanity and who hast gone to the cross of

Thine own gracious gift; Thou who dost offer the atonement, Thou who dost know the cost of the evil of the world, O survey this morning with piteous eye, we beseech Thee, the battle fields that give anguish to our hearts. We look to Thee, Father of all mercies, to be the Author of peace, in the Name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

O OUR Lord, our good and faithful Friend who lookest into us and touchest us with the hand of forgiveness whether we will or no, Thou who hast forgiven us before we have repented, Thou who didst give Calvary to us before we sinned, Thou who hast come so graciously, so before the time of our faith with an army to rescue, we pray Thee for the forgiveness of our sins. We pray Thee for the light of holiness upon our path, in the Name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

ALMIGHTY God, who art the Life and Light Eternal, who hast given us our Lord, Jesus Christ, to make Easter Day a perpetual prophecy that life shall outlast death, that the rewards of life are divinely given, we pray Thee, as we enter upon this service that the Easter light may shine in every heart, that always and everywhere we may look up to

Thee and especially at this moment may we see Thee the Author of light, Redeemer of life, the Sanctifier of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

O THOU who art the first and the last, our God and our King, our never-failing Comfort and Companion, we adore Thee to-day for this Easter light and this Easter warmth and we thank Thee that these symbols of the springtime of the soul are come to us again for our blessing, for our inspiration, for our guidance, and above all, for the sanctification of our lives. O Lord, we approach Thee with great humility, remembering how vast is this theme and how we are permitted with our finite natures to come so close to an infinite reality. The whole universe to-day seems resounding with a vast Amen from heaven when all that our Saviour did and all that He spake is made eternally true by rising from the dead. Father, in heaven, we pray Thee as Thou gavest Thine only Son and as Thou gavest Him unto us—so not by our labors and our deserts, but by our gifts we are going homeward. We pray to Thee that the resurrection warmth may come over all the coldness and iciness of our lives, melting it; that the resurrection light may come over all the darkness, driving gloom away. We pray in the Name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

O FATHER in heaven, we, Thy children, full of error, prone to falter, hardly knowing how soon we may fail, not knowing that anything outside of us is breaking the heart of the risen Redeemer on the cross of to-day that may not come from us, knowing how weak we are, still we pray—pray for our brothers in battle line, we pray, O God, for the wild and awful orgy to cease; we pray, Heavenly Father, we beg of Thee to-day to lift the hand of the scarred Redeemer, the wounded hand of Jesus, over the earth. We ask in the Name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

O LORD, we pray Thee to-day that this may be a day of comfort and sweetness, especially to those who have drunken of the bitter cup, to those who know the sorrow and loss which comes by death. We would not make less, we would not make more painful the fact that we have known death. Thou hast spoken to this community. Thou hast taken one of the leaders in all of the best and richest and truest things in life from his place of power, and O Thou hast also spoken in the cottage and hamlet away out yonder on the plain, in the loneliness of the night. Thou hast spoken in palace hall, Thou hast sent Thine angel called death up and down the streets of our life, and this angel has not made a differ-

ence with the rich and poor. Send Thou Thine angel of Life, and may every household and every lonely heart to-day feel and know the joy and persuasion of Easter. We ask in the Name of Him who was the Resurrection and is the Life. Amen.

O THOU who art the Resurrection and the Life, we give Thee the honor and joy, the loyalty and love of our hearts this morning. We come to the end of the grave to-day, O Thou ascended Christ, and find the Gospel—good news of hope for those who are hopeless, the news of a life beyond for those whose lives here have failed, the news of the song round about the throne, sung by the redeemed for those who need redemption and have redemption in our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

O Thou Mighty Christ, Thou who didst burst asunder the bonds of death, Thou who hast the keys of hell and of death, accept our hearts for the conquest and in thankfulness for the victory we will give Thee praise and honor forever, through God and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

WE confess the lordship of Jesus Christ, our Father in heaven. We have seen Him in these days when we have been following Him here. The Little Child of Bethlehem, the Brother at home and upon whom there

have been visited the scorn of neighbors and the distrust of His own. We have watched Him in the vales of Galilee, we have seen Him in Samaria upon His path of duty. We have gone all the way again through this glorious year to find the Gospel. We have not found it even at Calvary. We know that He said, "And I, if I be lifted up, shall draw all men unto me"—but we cannot give our Christ over to death. We cannot believe that it is all and in all for us to leave Him even at the tomb of Joseph of Arimathea, so this morning we come around that tomb with various experiences and with various influences, but with one heart—eager, wistful, trembling, wondering if it may be so, sure that it must be so. Some of us are here for the first time with mother or father in yonder grave. Some of us are here for the first time with a dear companion of youth, a sister or brother, whose face we shall see no more; others of us are here with dear little children who have passed from our side just as we began to love them and care for them. Others of us are here with those whom a whole lifetime has endeared to us inexpressibly, and we sit no more by their side, and we are thinking of them as we crowd to the sepulchre of Jesus. With what thanksgiving do we come away! We have seen the face of an angel. We have heard a voice, "He is not here, but He is risen" as He said.

O Lord, we thank Thee for what our Saviour says, and we thank Thee for what He accomplishes, and whatever He says, He accomplishes. Ours is the Gospel of Resurrection henceforward, the Gospel of things buried by the power of God, breaking through all the crust of circumstances and all the outworks of evil and the stone that has been rolled against the grave for safe keeping. Goodness is alive in the world! The wounds are still upon its hands, but goodness is no longer a remote and abstract thing. It is He!—He who said unto us, "I am the Resurrection and the Life," and again we give our lives to Him, our Risen Christ. Amen.

Mother's Day

SPEAK to us, Thou Still Small Voice, as we would feel through the painter's art some tenderness that no violence of color or sharpness of line or vastness of canvas can give, come Thou in small, sweet experiences of each private soul. And as with all things of earth that make us hush, and as great sounds are profound, so may there be this morning intimations to us from the land of memory, the land of experience, the land of hope, of all Thy message.

Many of us are here on this day dedicated to the word *Mother*. We are here with mother,

and we thank Thee and speak with the still, small voice, as a mother comforteth her children. Others of us are here with experiences of motherhood. They yet abide, these angels of our childhood, and bend over us. Speak to us as our mother spoke to us the dearest things —all great things—in a still, small voice.

We are here, all of us, children of hope, and we desire to meet them by and by. Help us so to live as to be worthy, and, O Lord, help us, above all, to lift one humble prayer this morning for the mothers of the land. Speak and teach them to speak to their children in a still, small voice—not the tempest, not the earthquake, not the fire. And O may we rear an American conscience that shall be our still, small voice. So help these mothers of the land to bring out of all the tumult and discord, the noise of our time, the music of the inner life and the inner hope.

We ask in the Name of Him who has spoken to us, even Jesus. Amen.

OUR Father God, Thou art deeper than the sea; Thou art stronger than the foolishness of man; Thou art mightier than all things else. So we draw our thoughts this morning away from lesser things, from all *things,* and we enter into Thy presence with awe and love, with open minds, trustful hearts, for Thou art our Father. As we think of our

world this morning we think of all the world and we think of Him who, greater than all the world, ruleth over all. Father, calm us. Teach us the sweetness and holiness of Thy love. Give us this morning to a theme that draws us from the circumstance and environment of time. O, Thou Mother-God; O, Thou who didst speak in Him as He said, "As a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings"—teach us the motherhood in the universe to-day, in the Name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Decoration Day

WE ask Thy blessing this morning, O God, upon the nation that walks with stately and solemn step to bedew with tears again the flowers that grow out of the graves of our fallen warriors. We thank Thee, our Father, for a clean flag. We pray Thee that we may help to keep it clean by being right and just and heroic for truth. We beseech Thee, O Lord, to lead with Thine own tender hand these our old soldiers who remain to-day to reflect glory upon our shield. Lead them with infinite tenderness down the slope, and we pray Thee that they may learn the beautifulness of Thy calm that shall lead into the gates of sleep and we beseech Thee that their sleep may be postponed until our nation shall be wakened to the greatness of the truths for which they

fought and in whose glory they shall stand. We ask in the Name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Prayers used at Baccalaureate Service of Armour Institute of Technology

O THOU God of all truth, Thou who art our Father and our everlasting Friend, we bring to Thee the precious treasures represented here this morning in the lives and fortunes of these young men, and thank Thee for all the beauty of this hour, with all its possibilities and comfort of strength and assurance to our common brotherhood. We bring to Thee thanks for the sacrifices of mothers and fathers and sisters and friends and of the old homes. We consecrate again unto Thee the efforts of those who have labored with these, our beloved ones, and we ask that their tears and prayers may be this morning tears of rejoicing and prayers that Thou alone shouldst guide these whom we would guide but whom we may not guide because they shall have the heavenly guidance. We pray that all of us here to-day may recognize the fact that we are at the beginnings, the commencement season and every day we graduate and every morning we begin anew. May we here to-day enter more deeply into that great school of Thine own, that Institute of Thy Love and Provi-

dence, and so at the end find rest, beginning again, graduated from life here into the life there that it may be indeed not the end but with these whom we love, the beginning, the commencement.

We ask in the Name of the Eternal God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

ALMIGHTY Father, our God who art the secret of all gravitation, Love that unites, Love that holds together our universe, Love that is the law, we adore Thee. We have knelt to Thee in the laboratory, we have followed Thee through many days in the secret pathways of Thine own progress. We have hitched our burdens to Thee; Thou hast pulled them along, and Thou art through all the world to-day challenging man's obedience, man's power of discovery, for haply he may touch Thy garment in order that all human concerns may be pulled along by love, and pulled upward so that we shall be in the celestial world and all our terrestrial interests shall be made the interest that may endure.

Happy and blessed are they who have endured. Happy are these men who have endured the discipline of their course. Shall the discipline of life be less important? Are there no graduation days ahead when the body dies? O, Lord God, have we not seen enough of the destruction of bodies so that we no longer re-

vere the body of anything as an ultimate form, so that we revere and honor alone the thing that makes these bodies what they are,—the organizing reality within and behind all matter speaking through all life. We have seen the body die in the test tube and in the retort. We behold die in many of the processes of history and if we believe to-day in the conservation of force, we believe there is one force we bow before—our God. We may deny; we may insist that we do not believe one God, one law, one element, and one far-off divine event toward which the whole creation moves, but we see this event in the laboratory of life and especially do we see it when the Master comes into the laboratory. We have read the chapters of the dark time when men thought that the worths of life were cattle, long years and bowing relatives and supremacy by power or inheritance. We are living to-day in an atmosphere when the worths of life are all of the mind. We are come to Mount Zion, the City of the Living God, the heavenly Jerusalem with an innumerable company, but the song of this company is a song of self-sacrifice and not selfishness; they sing to the Slain Lamb. In the name of the Father. Amen.

ALMIGHTY God who givest us life and light, who art Thyself the Light of lights and the Life of all life, we bring to Thee

to-day reverently and lovingly our offering, the great future we dedicate this morning: youth, strength, hope, and achievement. We wait for Thy blessing. May this hour be an hour indeed in which the mercies of heaven shall stream into all our hearts, waking us to the grandeur of life. May we learn this morning, if never before, that a golden milestone abides in the history of our existence on earth; that there are springs whose freshness and sweetness are never to be forgotten; that we have been drinking this morning from one of these springs. We ask in the Name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

OUR Father God who dost give unto us the riches of this life and the Life Eternal, we bring to Thee our gratitude this morning for the years which we passed in such holy and happy relationships as bring to this morning also their perfume and make the rod and power which is held out by these our young and beloved friends a budding rod indeed. We thank Thee for all the fragrance that makes strength and for all the loveliness that makes power, and pray that these may grow into that larger, sweeter liberty which comes in the maturity of life. O Lord, while the world is shaken with disorder and under the tramp of armies, we give to Thee these sons to be soldiers indeed; to reckon upon the fact that they

must enter every true battle of principle as against an insane time. O Lord, may they know the opportunity which comes because of their privilege; may they feel this morning that it is theirs indeed to enter into that war for great ideas, for larger and sweeter understanding one man of another, one nation of another, one class of society of another. May we have peace, but may we have only the peace of righteousness and justice and truth. Give to these, Thy young knights, a moment, we pray Thee, of consecration. Touch them, we beseech Thee, with Thy sword, that theirs may be the sword of the Lord God and of Gideon. We ask in the Name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Christmas

O GOD, our Father and our King, what thanks are ours this morning that we bring to Thee but the thanks of hearts set to the music of this Christmas Day and these Christmas hours that stretch forward into the days that are to be. O, opened Heaven and happy earth; O music between earth and sky, music of man in his sorrow and his sin, the music of salvation and of comfort, music of angels from above, how happily, how divinely great and true, Father, hast Thou united earth and heaven. How true is this Christmas

thought, how sure is our Christmas Reward, whom we worship as Him from whom cometh every good and perfect gift, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

WE thank Thee, our God, for the incense of praise which arises this morning from the altars of our hearts. How meet it is that we should render unto Thee, as we are approaching the Christmas light the dawn of that wonderful new day, our praise. We bring to Thee this morning our poor lives, our failures, our mistakes, our sins, but with them our hopes, our joys in the dawning light of the coming Christ. O Lord, be Thou with us this morning; lead this worship; may it be absolutely in the hands of the great good God of the Christmas-time. We pray in the Name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

WE are grateful unto Thee, O God, and in the humbleness which comes of the consciousness of the great and mighty projects within us, we give Thee our thanks that we are so much to Thee. We thank Thee that Thou hast loved us from the foundation of the world. We thank Thee that Christ is within the human soul, the hope of glory, the original intention of the soul, the primitive and primordial thing to which the soul yearns, that manhood of which we are made capable be-

cause we are sons of God. Father, we would not boast of our inheritance. We would be humble in the presence of the discovery which Jesus makes of ourselves to ourselves. We walk in the presence of our other brothers of the human family and in so far as they are nobler than we, we make the discovery within ourselves of the possibility of being noble too. But with Him—*Jesus only*—we make the discovery of the infinite. We see no limits to the possibility of our poor lives. We know that we belong to Thee. It stirs up within us such pristine relationships to God that they vibrate with infinite music. So we bring to Thee our praise this morning, through Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

OUR prayer, O God, comes out of our praise. It is the blossom of all our gratitude. Because these things are so we pray Thee this morning that we may in all humility receive the lessons which are coming to us in the experience of life. Prepare each one of us for the genuine Christmas Event, interior, everlasting. May we have a manger cradle for the One for whom there is no room in the crowdedness of our life. May there be soft stars beaming from above; may there be an angel's song within us all day because of the coming of a sweeter and holier life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

HEAVENLY Father, wilt Thou forgive us, Thy children, that we have been so wise in earth's blundering and egotistic ways that we have been substituting formula and ritual for simple neighborliness, for kindness, generosity, and charity; that we have gone so far with our pride of mind that we have lost the heart. O, restore us, Lord! Bring us back by the way of the little Child this morning; bring us by way of this mother's glorious career, as Thine own servant with the new humanity. Teach us the common duties here today and make sublime the simplicities of life. We ask in the Name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

AND may our lives be a great and continuous "Amen" with this thought and inspiration and praise, O Thou Highest that is Loveliest, O Thou Loveliest that is Highest. "Glory to God in the highest; peace on earth, Good Will to Men." We adore Thee this morning for the appeal of the highest outside of us to the highest within us. We pray Thee that the response of that divine religion which lies as history beneath all our faults and all our sins may be so great this morning to all the challenge to that which is high and noble and godlike, we may find the experience of godlikeness in the communion which we have through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

O LORD, we do praise Thee. In this Christmas light we give Thee the adoration of our hearts, and we pray Thee that we may give to Thee the loyalty of our lives. O Thou Gift of Gifts opening a new world, making the whole universe radiant with Thy presence, be Thou with us this morning, Thou Little One of the manger; be Thou with us through all our life, with all the benefits of the gospel of Love and with all the benevolences of the Spirit of God, and especially be Thou with us, O Lord, throughout our life with Thy grace. May we not merely be glad; may we be obedient, obedient to all the light of Christmas, so that now we shall open our hearts and make our hearts a Christmas gift indeed, in the Name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

O LORD God Almighty, we thank Thee for a choral religion. We thank Thee for that manifestation of Thyself that reorganizes a discordant universe and gives us the true chord of being. We are rejoicing to-day, Heavenly Father, that this religion which has come to be the life of man, the hope of the world, in spite of all the failures of human nature still sets its notes before us, still challenges the musical power in the human soul, still demands harmony of life with the infinite, and still waits, therefore, for its victory. We pray

Thee that at once, this morning, we may so chord our lives to this mighty theme that our lives may be a perpetual Christmas. We ask in the Name of the First Christmas Gift, our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

O LORD, as we come to this great festival of thought and hope and love and vision, we recount our sins and transgressions; we remember our iniquities. We have failed in the presence of such lofty ideals, we have gone astray in spite of the influence of such holy purposes. We need Thee, great, forgiving Love, and we pray for Thy forgiveness in the Name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

ALMIGHTY God, who hast revealed Thyself in the Christmastide, and who hast given to earth a song sweeter than the song which was sung by those when the morning stars were together and rejoicing,—hear our prayer, we beseech Thee, this morning as we add our petitions to the song, and grant us now and always the presence of the living Christ born in the manger of our life when the inn is too full and too occupied to admit even the Lord, and this we pray in the Name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

ALMIGHTY God and Giver of all Gifts, we thank Thee for the Gift which has been pronounced by Thine own saint and prophet, the Unspeakable Gift. We can talk to one another this morning of gifts of friendship and gifts of love; we shall find this a week in which all the sweet ministries of the heart shall come throbbingly along the common roadways of life with their gifts;—but what are gifts unless in the atmosphere of the Unspeakable Gift? What are the gifts of which we may speak—even fatherhood, even motherhood, the tender associations of childhood, the mightier associations of love—what are they all, save in the love of God, in Christ Jesus, our Lord?

Accept our heartiest gratitude, Great Father of the Human Soul, for the Unspeakable Gift, as we name His Name, Jesus, born in Bethlehem, crucified on Calvary, risen at Olivet, and at home in the eternal Christmas of the Sky! Amen.

Special Prayers

LORD God Almighty, we simply continue this prayer to Thee to a bright and pure to-morrow. *Guide me, be with me to-night.* This is the cry of the city of Chicago, bedraggled, misunderstood by herself, faulty, but hopeful; staggering, but staggering toward the

light. Better to-day than she was yesterday, praying that to-morrow may be pure and bright for every one who walks her streets. She prays to-day, "Be with me to-night." O God, Thou who seest all things and knowest how night hides the foulest of the beasts and the most poisonous of the serpents, how the lion goeth forth in the night for his prey, be with me to-night. May this be the prayer of every man and woman inside the city gates. May, therefore, there begin in each heart such a residence of God, such a presence of the Almighty that the gates of the city shall be like battlements and her walls shall be called salvation and her gates praise, in the Name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

WE come to Thee this morning, O Lord, with the recollection of dear ones who have passed from us in these recent hours, and of the recollection of those who still linger with us and are yet in sickness and in weakness and in need of Thy grace. We pray Thy blessing upon those who this morning come into our prayer as we think of them, as we have seen them and heard their voices praising the God before whom we bow in this place and asking for His help. O Lord, our Father, we beseech Thee that we may be thankful for a religion so luminous and illuminating to human

life and through all the dark places that the lanes of light may be evident leading more and more into the perfect day. We ask in the Name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

O LORD, we ask Thee, as we have been asked this morning to pray that Thou shouldst go to the houses of mourning, that Thou shouldst give Thy great blessing to the most mistaken, to the most misled, to the most wicked of all upon the earth. Lord, gather Thy raggedest, poorest, blindest, of Thy children in Thy arms of mercy. We ask this in the Name of Him who walked to the leper and cleansed him, gave eyes to the sight of the blind, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

WE bring to Thee this morning, Heavenly Father, those who have asked that we should pray for them, that family so sorely stricken in the sorrow that may not be mentioned, worse than death, and we beseech Thee that though we do not know their name and Thou dost know all names, that Thou shalt find them by the feet of love and bless them and restore them to honor and purity. We pray Thee also, Heavenly Father, for those who are looking into the faces of them that seem to be dead and departed. May we know

that death has no victory, may we understand that the grave has been despoiled of its triumph, and may they, above all, know that life has opened a new gateway and for him who so loved beauty may there be an abundant entrance into the land of Beauty and Truth, through Jesus Christ. Amen.

O LORD, our God, in the name of those whom we love and who are suffering this morning, and especially in the name of him who stands upon the very verge of the awful future, we ask Thy blessing and guidance, and as friendship to-night shall take its way to yonder hospital may there be found new life and new strength. Guide Thou, we pray Thee this morning, those who are helping anywhere and everywhere to enrich and prolong all the harvest to the value of human life. We ask in the Name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

O THOU God who hast given unto us One of flesh and blood, who hast gone through the Valley of the Shadow of Death, we pray Thee this morning that Thine own great Servant, Thy Son, our Redeemer, shall go to bedsides of pain and sorrow and distress and lead our dear ones gently into the light of

the day. We ask in the Name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

O LORD, we feel to-day that our hearts overflow with sympathy with those that are in trouble and we beseech Thee in Christ's Name to bless those who are in affliction. O Father, tenderly lead those whom we love who are walking to-day for the first time by the edge of a grave that shall contain that that is visibly nearest and dearest. O God, stand Thou in the presence of Jesus Christ, the Resurrection and the Life with them by the grave's side and may they look upward and know Thee as the Redeemer of their lives. We ask in the Name of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

O LORD, we bring to Thee this morning places of pain and of sorrow and of sickness, and we ask Thee, according to the request of Thy servant, that Thou mightest pour out of the wealth of Thine own great love so completely into the souls of those who are suffering that all suffering shall pass into the life of God. O, great Sea, Thou canst take all our streams that come through man's bringing down from afar many of the unpleasant things, many of the sorrowful things. God is, and God alone is, and in the circumference of God all other things are lost. We pray Thee

to receive our lives into Thine with this completeness, in Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

WE come to Thee, our Father, with the special prayers that are to be offered this morning for those who are in affliction and in distress. We pray Thee for the young hearts that are deeply troubled and are wearied before the days of maturity and strength. We beseech Thee, O Lord, for those who do not know how to turn and who shall not be able to turn alone to the right path. Wilt Thou give them the guidance of Thy Spirit, and wilt Thou help them in these times to help others? Give us the habit, O Lord, of entertaining angels unaware. May we find Thee in the poor and the weak and the sorrowful and the discouraged. May we remember that Thou sayest unto us: He that doeth it unto the least of these doeth unto Me. We ask this in the Name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Musical Selections Referred to in Prayers on Following Pages:

"Be my tent and in Thy covert, hide me from the tempest's war."
Hymn: Hyfrydol.....*Gunsaulus-Protheroe* 49

"Let me never be confounded."
E flat Festival Te Deum..*Dudley Buck*..... 50

"And triumph over death and thee, O time."
"Round about the Starry throne" (Samson).....*Handel*..... 50

"Mighty Ruler, Mighty Lover, Mighty Saviour."
In that day there shall be a root of Jesse.....*Gunsaulus-Protheroe* 51

"God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son" .....*Stainer*..... 52

"These are they that came out of great tribulation".....*Patty Stair*..... 53

"Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God Almighty, who wast, who art, and is to come".....*H. J. Stewart*..... 55

"In the shadow of the cloud so chill and dim, we are clinging, loving, trusting."
Jesus Only.....*Rotoli*..... 56

"And triumph over death and thee, O time." "Then round about the starry throne" (Samson)...*Handel*..... 58

"I shall tent on love's highway." Hymn: Hyfrydol.*Gunsaulus-Protheroe* 59

"He sendeth the springs into the valleys, that run among the hills"..... *Protheroe*..... 60

"I only know I cannot drift beyond His love and care." The Silent Sea..... *Neidlinger*..... 60

I'm a pilgrim..... *Marston*..... 61

Fierce, was the wild billow... *Noble*..... 62

Hymn: "Blest be the tie that binds"..... 62

"Judge of the Nations, be with us yet, lest we forget, lest we forget." Recessional..... *Kipling-Schnecher*... 87

"Surely, He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows." (Messiah.)..... *Handel*..... 129

"Be with me to-night." Keep me, Lord, the shadows Falling..... *Mathews*..... 153

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